



Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and NC President Sher Bahadur Deuba at NC's tea reception: P. 6

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चाडपर्व हाम्रो साँस्कृतिक धरोहरहरू हुन्  
यिनीहरूको संरक्षण गरौं ।  
चाडपर्वको नाममा फजुल खर्च नगरी  
उत्पादनमूलक कार्यमा लाग्नी गरौं ।  
नेपाल सरकार  
सञ्चार तथा सूचना प्रविधि मन्त्रालय  
सूचना तथा प्रसारण विभाग

## Accord on cross-border connectivity

### Chinese Prez Xi returns

By A Staff Reporter  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping returned to Beijing on Sunday after concluding his two-day state visit to Nepal.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari, with Prime Minister Oli and other dignitaries, bid farewell to the Chinese President at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

A large number of people appeared on the road to bid farewell to the high level Chinese guest.

President Xi held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli in the morning and deliberated on bilateral relationship and regional and international issues of common concern. They observed the signing of various 20 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), agreements and letter of exchanges and a 20-point joint statement was issued afterwards.

Chairman of Nepal Communist Party (NCP) and former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda called on the visiting Chinese President at Soaltee Hotel where they hold about half an hour-long meeting.

Prachanda said that Nepal felt proud for having a neighbour like China and expressed commitment to exchange experiences and take the bilateral relations to the newer heights.

Prachanda said that the bilateral relationship between Nepal and China witnessed an advent of new era following the signing of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He maintained that both the countries must set deadline to select and execute projects so that the people of both nations could benefit by them.

In response, President Xi stressed on developing common programme in order to exchange experiences of both the parties. He reiterated his commitment to support Nepal in achieving the national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'.

President Xi emphasised on economic development and said, "A political party and government can win the hearts of people only through the economic development in the country." He also told Prachanda that for a communist party, its

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President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli seeing off Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. The Chinese President returned home after completing the two-day visit to Nepal on Sunday. (Photo: Shekhar Chaulagain/TRN)

## Cooperation to cover rail, tunnel and energy exchange

By Modnath Dhakal  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

Nepal and China have agreed to intensify cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to enhance connectivity by developing ports, roads, railways, aviation and communication.

They have agreed to expedite the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation under the BRI to enhance connectivity within the framework of trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network.

A joint statement issued by the two neighbours on Sunday at the conclusion of the two-day state visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Nepal maintains that the implementation of connectivity infrastructure will contribute to Nepal's aim to graduate from the status of the Least Developed Country (LDC) at an early date and become a middle income country by 2030.

Nepal plans to graduate to a developing nation from its current LDC status by 2022.

President Xi and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli observed the agreements signing on Sunday

morning following their bilateral meeting.

The visit of the Chinese Head of the State after a gap of 23 years brought joy to the government and people of Nepal as the two nations agreed to conduct the feasibility

Cross-border connectivity The northern neighbour has agreed to open the Lizhi-Nechung port across the Korala border at the earliest date and build necessary infrastructure on Nepal's side of the border.



Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, Chinese President Xi Jinping and other dignitaries participating in the bilateral meeting held in the capital on Sunday. (Photo: Bikash Dware/TRN)

study of the Keyrung-Kathmandu Railway project which will be the first cross-border railway in the north. China has also assured that it would extend support to the proposed Kathmandu-Pokhara-Lumbini railway project.

Nepal and China had signed an MoU in June 2018 on Cooperation in Railway Project.

Currently Zhangmu/Khasa port across Tatopani is operating freight functions while Jilong Keyrung port on the other side of Rasuwagadhi will come into operation shortly.

China has supported Nepal in the construction of Larcha Dry Port at Tatopani border and is constructing Timure Dry Port

at Rasuwagadhi border point which has witnessed the increased trade activities following the devastation of the former in the 2015 earthquake.

Tunnel along the Keyrung-Kathmandu road is also included in the joint statement. Currently, China and Nepal have agreed to conduct feasibility study of the project.

In an effort to facilitate cross-border movement of goods and people the northern neighbour is also helping Nepal in developing the Syaphrubensi-Rasuwagadhi road as a two-lane highway.

In another effort to create long-term connectivity infrastructure, China has agreed to upgrade and reconstruct the Araniko Highway connecting Kathmandu to Tatopani-Khasa.

Similarly, China will be supporting Nepal in developing three north-south corridors – Koshi, Gandaki and Karnali Economic Corridors. "It will create jobs and improve livelihood of locals and stimulate economic growth and development," read the joint statement.

The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in various fields of economy, including trade,

tourism, investment, capacity of production and improving people's livelihood so as to promote mutual development.

President Xi's visit has also facilitated Nepal to have greater direct air services to China as the two countries have welcomed the consensus between their civil aviation authorities on expanding the air rights arrangement to operate more direct air services.

Nepal will also get assistance for training its technical human resources in railway, road and tunnel engineering, inland waterways and shipping.

Expanding export to China China has assured that it would take positive measures to expand Nepal's export to China.

It has agreed to consider providing technical support for the establishment of multifunctional laboratory in Nepal and extend cooperation to make Tatopani Frontier Inspection Station at Larcha fully functional.

At the same time, Nepal will facilitate the Chinese banks to open their branches and other financial services in Nepal to facilitate trade and investment between the two countries. Nepali

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### Visit successful, say President Bhandari, PM Oli

By A Staff Reporter  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

President Bidya Devi Bhandari has said that the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping had ushered in the historical and strong relations between Nepal and China to a new era. In her tweet on Sunday, she also expressed gratitude to her Chinese counterpart for his goodwill and support to Nepal and its people.

Likewise, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has termed the visit 'a huge success'. "The two-day visit of the Chinese president has concluded with a grand success and the relations between the two countries have achieved new height and dynamism," he said in a tweet on Sunday.

In another tweet, he expressed gratitude for Xi's goodwill and good wishes. He also thanked Nepali people for their support to make the visit a success in an unprecedented way.



Chinese President Xi Jinping in a carcade in Kathmandu before his departure to China on Sunday. (Photo: Rajendra / TRN)

## President Xi's visit has boosted Nepal-China relations

By A Staff Reporter  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

Political leaders as well as the leaders of the business community have termed the two-day State visit of the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping to Nepal as successful. Both the leaders of the ruling and the main opposition parties have hailed the visit of the Chinese leader.

They said that it was a historic opportunity for Nepal to welcome the Chinese President in an interval of 23 years.

Earlier, the then Chinese President Jiang Zemin had visited Nepal in 1996.

Chairman of the ruling Nepal Communist Party Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, who had a separate meeting with President Xi for about half an hour on Sunday, said that the talks and discussions held between Nepal and China during Xi's visit were highly positive.

"What we have done has been okay," Prachanda said.

However, he did not make any further comment. "Everything has been reported in the media, and you can also contact party spokesperson for additional views," he said.

During his meeting with the Chinese President, NCP chair Prachanda said that with the



Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi exchanging the memorandum of understandings at the signing ceremony in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli in Kathmandu on Sunday. (Photo: RSS)

signing of BRI, Nepal-China relations had entered a new phase.

Spokesperson of the Nepal Communist Party Narayankaji Shrestha said that the visit of the Chinese President that was possible after a long interval became highly successful.

"This visit has become a base for taking Nepal-China relations to a newer height," the former foreign affairs minister said, adding that with the visit, friendship and intimacy between the two countries have further deepened.

The visit has ensured Chinese support to push Nepal's economic revolution further ahead, he said.

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# President Xi’s visit opportunity to attract Chinese investment

By Laxman Kafle  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

Business leaders said on Sunday that the State visit of the President of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping to Nepal had opened up a new avenue for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) from China in the days to come.

They said that the commitment of the Chinese President Xi to improve the trans-Himalaya connectivity between Nepal and China would be a milestone for the economic development of Nepal as the connectivity was the backbone for boosting trade and economy.

President Xi, who had arrived in Kathmandu on Saturday, returned to Beijing on Sunday after wrapping his two-day State visit to Nepal.

President of Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) Satish Kumar More said that the visit of Chinese President Xi had cast a new dimension for strengthening Nepal-China trade relations, including the national economy.

Stating Xi’s commitment to help turn Nepal from a land-locked country to a ‘land-linked country’ will help boost connectivity between the two

countries, he said the government of Nepal should play a crucial role to materialise this commitment.

Signing of the 20 Memorandum of Understanding in different sectors on the second day of President Xi’s visit was also positive, he said.

Both the countries had agreed to form a working committee under the Commerce Secretaries of both the countries, and this was also positive because it would address the problems seen in the trade between Nepal and China.

“On behalf of CNI, we are very hopeful from the visit that it will open up new avenue for attracting foreign direct investment and boot Nepal’s trade,” he said.

Vice-President of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Chandra Prasad Dhakal said that the pledge of the Chinese president to start feasibility study of the trans-Himalayan railway and provide support for the construction of Keyrung-Kathmandu tunnel road was highly encouraging for Nepal.

“If the connectivity between Nepal and China is improved, the foreign direct investment will come in Nepal as China is a potential market for Nepali products. I think that

the visit will encourage Chinese investors to increase their investment in various sectors of Nepal, including hydropower, agriculture and infrastructure,” he told The Rising Nepal.

“We are also hopeful to implement the MoUs signed between two countries and commitments made by President Xi as the latter also committed to implementing what they said and planned during the reception hosted by President Bidya Devi Bhandari,” he said.

CN Pandey, president of Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents, said that Chinese President’s Visit was positive for the promotion of Nepal’s tourism abroad.

This Chinese President’s visit would support for attracting more Chinese tourists in Nepal in the days to come and support to make the Visit Nepal Year 2020 a success, he said.

“We hope that the flow of the Chinese tourists in Nepal will double in VNY 2020. Currently, around 150,000 Chinese tourists are visiting Nepal annually,” he said.

The commitment to improving connectivity would also encourage the tourism entrepreneurs as it was a major factor to bring in more tourists in Nepal.



President of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli attending the signing ceremony in Kathmandu Sunday.  
(Photo: RSS)

## Devi Daha lacks conservation, fails to lure visitors

By Santosh Subedi  
Siraha, Oct. 13

Devi Daha (lake) located at Ward No 17 of Lahan Municipality has failed to attract domestic tourists in lack of its proper conservation.

The lake was repaired by the Nepali Army by spending Rs.76 million some six

rest places and rest rooms in the lake premises.

The Nepali Army had even handed over five motor boats for the consumer committee for the promotion of tourism there.

Devi Daha lies inside a community forest that spreads in 50 hectares of land. Domestic tourists from Siraha, Saptari

Locals blame chair of consumer commit Chandra Man Sarki and the employees of the Division Forest Office for the poor condition of Devi Lake.

Ram Chandra Yadav, former chair of consumer committee, said that they asked the incumbent committee chair to take initiative for the preservation of the lake, but he did not heed them.



years ago to promote tourism.

The amount was allocated from the President Chure Terai Madhes Conservation Programme in the fiscal year 2070/71.

The Nepali Army not only maintained the dilapidated lake but also utilised its space to develop picnic spots,

and Udayapur districts visit this lake for entertainment, shooting music videos and other activities.

But in six years, all of the boats given to the consumer committee by the Nepali Army have been damaged and the lake does not look clean, distracting the tourists from visiting it.

He said that conservation work on the lake was politicized unnecessarily.

However, chair of Devi Lake Consumer commit Chandra Man Shakya denied the allegations of Yadav. He said that the conservation task would resume soon.

## Chepanang farmers produce 70 tonnes of honey

By Shiva Kumar Kashi  
Makawanpur, Oct. 13

Farmers of remote Silinge village of Raksing Rural Municipality in Makawanpur district have produced 70 tonnes of honey in a year.

Silinge is a village where ethnically minority Chepangs live.

In the fiscal year 2018/19, Janachetana Agriculture Cooperatives collected 45 tonnes of honey; while, other business persons collected more than 25 tonnes honey.

According to Dinesh

Chepanang, president of the Cooperatives, Rs.17.5 million earned from honey.

“A single family has had as many as 300 beehives, and they are able to earn Rs. 1 million by selling honey,” he added.

Dinesh said the honey farming has become popular among the farmers of in Silinge, Juretha and Siladhuni areas.

Local Chepangs now collect honey and sell it to the ‘Honey Collection Centre’ there.

Honey produced in Silinge village is sold to Himalayan Honey, Dabur

Nepal and Nepal Agriculture Cooperative Association in Kathmandu. Dinesh Chepanang said the local honey collection centre collects honey from the farmers at Rs.250 per kilogram and sells it at Rs.300 per kilogram.

The farmers have kept both cerana and melifera species of honey bees in their hives.

They had kept all these hives for business intention. Various organisations are assisting the Cooperatives in bee hive distribution, refining the collected honey, branding and selling them. The cooperatives itself had

established “Natural Chiuri Honey” brand.

Singalal Chepanang, chief of Raksing Rural Municipality, said that the living status of the villagers has improved due to honey farming.

According to him, the local government is planting trees every year to help the farmers feed their bees. He said that Silinge, Siladhuni, Dhusarang, Pangthali, Todke, Kharkhande villages in Rangsing Rural Municipality and Rapti Municipality of Chitwan district are keeping bees for commercial purposes.

## California signs fur product sale, circus animal bans

AP  
Sacramento, Oct. 13

California will be the first state to ban the sale and manufacture of new fur products and the third to bar most animals from circus performances under a pair of bills signed Saturday by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The fur law bars residents from selling or making clothing, shoes or handbags with fur starting in 2023.

Animal rights groups cheered the measure as a stand against inhumane practices.

The proposal was vigorously opposed by the billion-dollar U.S. fur industry, and the Fur Information Council of America has already threatened to sue.

It follows Newsom’s signing of legislation that makes California the first state to outlaw fur trapping and follows bans on sales of fur in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

## 105 teams receive permission to climb 35 peaks in autumn

By A Staff Reporter  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

A total of 740 climbers of 105 teams received permission to climb different 35 peaks of Nepal during the current autumn season, Saturday.

According to the Department of Tourism (DoT), climbers of different 54 countries have taken permission from the department to scale the peaks this autumn.

Autumn is the 2nd season to climb the high mountains of Nepal after spring. The government is charging 50 per cent less royalties to the climbers who want to conquer the peaks in autumn season.

This autumn, Mt. Manaslu (8,163m) has attracted the maximum number of climbers. A total of 264 climbers of 27 expedition teams received permission from the DoT to climb Manaslu peak this autumn. Last autumn, 192 climbers had taken permission to climb the peak.

According to a source at DoT, all 27 teams had already made their attempt on Mt. Manaslu and reports of successful climbers are yet to come. This autumn, the first summit on Mt.

Manaslu was made on September 24.

Similarly, Mt. Himlung Himal (7,126m), Mt. Amadablam (6,814m), Mt. Saribung (6,346m), Mt. Thapa Peak (6,012m), Putha Himchuli (7,246m) and Dhawalagiri (8167m)) are other peaks which lure more climbers this autumn.

Rameshwore Niraula, an official at DoT, said that new expedition teams were still in

process to get permission to Mt. Amadablam and other small peaks. Last autumn, Mt. Amadablam was at the top on the basis of climbers taking permission. A total of 352 climbers had taken permission to climb Mt. Amadablam.

Niraula said that the number of climbers to Amadablam would increase as there are still some expedition teams in process. Mt. Amadablam is mostly climbed during the end of the autumn season, he said.

By Friday, the DoT has collected Rs. 49.28 million royalties by issuing permission to the expedition teams for different 35 peaks.

So far, one human casualty was reported this autumn season on Mt. Manaslu.

A Polish woman mountaineer Rita Donata Bladyko, 50, died due to high altitude sickness near Camp III of Mt Manaslu.

## South Asian growth to decline: WB

By A Staff Reporter  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

The growth rate in South Asia has been projected to come down by more than one percent during the current year, a World Bank (WB) report stated.

In line with a global downward trend, growth in South Asia is projected to 5.9 percent in 2019, down 1.1 percentage points from April 2019 estimates, casting uncertainty about a rebound in the short term, says the World Bank in its twice-a-year regional economic update.

The latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) centralization Work, finds that strong domestic demand, which propped high growth in the past, has weakened, driving a slowdown across the region, it read.

World Bank (WB) has projected that Nepal’s economy would grow by an average 6.5 per cent in the current and next fiscal year.

According to the report on regional economic update of WB made public on

Sunday, the growth rate would be possible due to strong services and construction activity, rising tourist arrivals and higher public spending.

“Declining industrial production and imports, as well as tensions in the financial markets reveal a sharp economic slowdown in South Asia,” said Hartwig Schafer, World Bank Vice President for the South Asia Region.

“As global and domestic uncertainties cloud the region’s economic outlook, South Asian countries should pursue stimulating economic policies to boost private consumption and beef up investments.”

Owing to slight rebound in investment and private consumption could jumpstart South Asia’s growth up to 6.3 per cent in 2020, slightly above East Asia and the Pacific, and 6.7 per cent in 2021, the report stated.

With multiple initiatives underway across the region to shift more political and fiscal responsibilities to local governments, the report warns, however,

that decentralization efforts in South Asia have so far yielded mixed results.

For decentralization to work, central authorities should wield incentives and exercise quality control to encourage innovation and accountability at the local level, it stated.

Rather than a mere reshuffling of power, the report calls for more complementary roles across tiers of government, in which national authorities remain proactive in empowering local governments for better service delivery.

“Decentralization in South Asia has yet to deliver on its promises and, if not properly managed, can degenerate into fragmentation,” said Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for the South Asia Region.

“To make decentralization work for their citizens, we encourage South Asian central governments to allocate their resources judiciously, create incentives to help local communities compete in integrated markets, and provide equal opportunities to their people.”



# Speeches by Presidents Bhandari and Xi at state banquet

## Blueprint for Nepal-China relations

## Standing together for peace, stability

Just now I've said Namaste written in the Chinese language. It may not have sounded that good.

Hundreds of flowers have bloomed in Nepal in autumn. I have come to Nepal at the cordial invitation of Honourable President Bidya Devi Bhandari. This is my first visit of Kantipur-Kathmandu. I have met my old and new friends here. I am extremely delighted to see political stability, social harmony and happy life of the people of Nepal. My hopes towards the future have been raised.

I have a hope that our two countries will maintain a more

I have a hope a more convenient relationship will be built between the two countries. We will start the feasibility study of China-Nepal Transborder Railways, upgrade the Araniko Highway in different phases by guaranteeing its smooth operation, actively take ahead the Keyrung-Kathmandu Tunnel Project, build the trans-Himalayan Multidimensional Connectivity Network by opening more checkpoints and help Nepal realise its dream of becoming land-linked from a landlocked country.

I have a hope that the understanding of the peoples of

Buddhist Religion has now become a local religion in China. In my view, in the days ahead, more and more Chinese people following the Buddhist Religion will come to visit Nepal and they will be here also for Religious Exchanges.

I hope the two countries will engage in more multidimensional co-work.

In the present context, self-protectionism, unilateralism and hegemony are widespread. We should support multilateralism and economic liberalisation.

The Chinese side has understood the special concern of the Nepali side over Climate Change well. We also support the appropriate demand of the Nepali side in terms of the commitments related to Climate Change. We will always be ready to save our common, mainly Himal, Sagarmatha, by taking ahead the process of addressing Climate Change from many sides.

I am very happy that we have secured unanimity of all Nepali leaders. I am extremely happy that in the course of this visit I could work with the Nepali leaders to draw a new blueprint and plans for relations between China and Nepal. Tomorrow, I will exchange views also with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on the bilateral relations and our common concern.

I often say we should complete the plans we make. We have done that in China. We have recently marked the 70th year of the establishment of the People's Republic of China. Our aims are at two targets for two centuries. We will realise the first target in the year ahead. For the second, we will take 30 years. But, the roadmap to doing our work is clear and we should implement it.

Let us make joint efforts to create a new future of our bilateral relationship.

Now I want to propose a toast in front of everyone present here. Cheers for prosperous and happy life of Nepal, for generations of friendship between China and Nepal and for the health of everyone present here, including President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

*(English translation of the speech given by Chinese President Xi Jinping at a banquet hosted by President Bidya Devi Bhandari)*

I am very pleased for an opportunity to warmly welcome President of the People's Republic of China and distinguished Chinese delegates to this state banquet.

It is a happy coincidence that Your Excellency the President has paid your state visit to Nepal at a time when the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China is being observed. On this occasion, I would like to extend my felicitations and best wishes to Your Excellency and all the members of the Chinese delegation. In addition to this, I would like to extend best wishes to our intimate neighbour China that it would be successful in achieving the two great goals of this millennium.

Under Your Excellency's charismatic leadership, China has forwarded epochal initiatives. Progressive reform plan, campaign against corruption and effective implementation of good governance and national reawakening are important dimensions of the Chinese dream. More than 150 nations from across the globe and dozens of organisations have become parties to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). For the new era, in the socialism with Chinese characteristics, the Xi Jinping Thought has become a vital people-centric philosophy. I feel that the capable and visionary Chinese leadership has garnered Chinese people's support for China's development.

The state visit I paid to China in April this year is still fresh in my memory. I am grateful for the warm welcome given to me during my whole trip starting from Your Excellency's hometown Xi'an, the originating point of the Silk Road.

I am confident that the meetings held with Your Excellency during my visit would help further consolidate the Nepal-China relations. Out of the important documents signed during the visit, the Transit and Transport Protocol has established Nepal's access to three dry ports and four sea ports in China.

I have felt that my participation and my address in the 2nd Belt and Road Forum helped voice Nepal's development aspirations. The joint statement issued at the concluding ceremony of the Forum's Leaders Roundtable incorporated Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network and Nepal-China Cross-border Railway. This will greatly help in the expansion of China's connectivity network for Nepal.

I would also like to recall that the visits paid by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to China in 2016 and 2018 have helped give a new direction to the relations between the two nations.

Nepal and the People's Republic of China are linked by mountains and rivers. There have been social and cultural contacts between us for centuries. Chinese monks Fa Hien and Huen Tsang and Nepali monk Buddhahadra, Princess Bhrikuti and artist Amiko had contributed much to strengthening the people-to-people and cultural relations between the two nations. Our relations have been very close, strong and problem-free as they have been based on mutual trust, respect and interests. Our relations are as deep as the sea and as high as Mt. Everest. Based on the Five Principles of Co-existence, there are many possibilities for taking the warm relations to newer heights.

Lumbini is not only the birthplace of Gautam Buddha but also the place of

in railway technology and the resources it has, we believe that this dream of Nepali people will come true soon.

Inspired by the discussions held with your excellency before, partnership with China has been our high priority in order to fulfill the national goal of Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali. We want to graduate from the least developed country status to the status of the medium income nations by the year 2030. As we have internal resource deficit to meet this goal, we are in need of foreign investments. We invite the Chinese investors to invest in productive sectors including infrastructure, water resource development and social sectors. The government will provide full security for investment.

We highly appreciate the generous support provided by China in the post-earthquake reconstruction. Similarly, we expect China's support to make Visit Nepal Year 2020 a success.

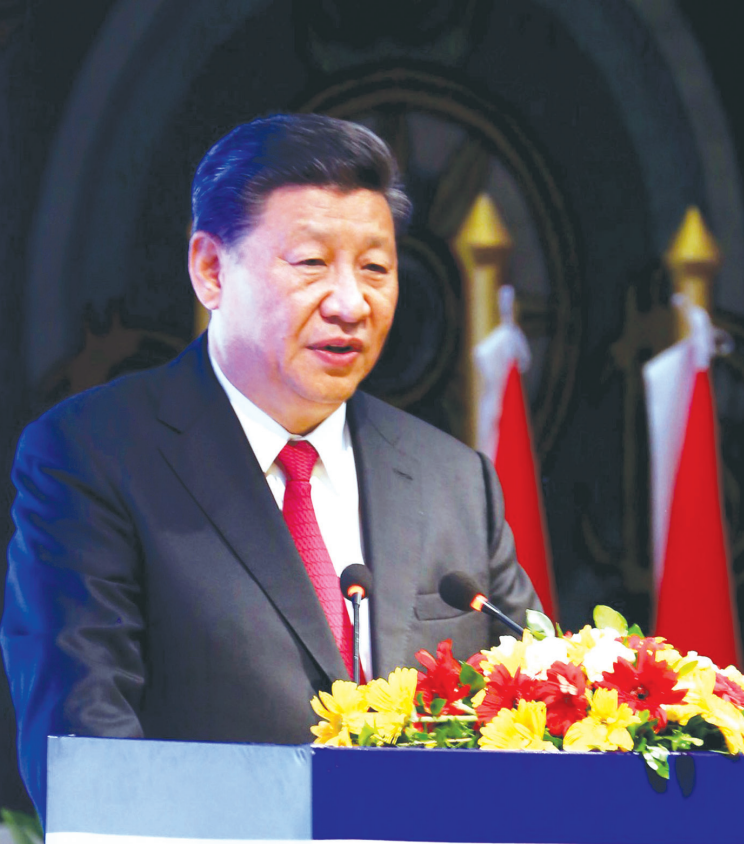
Our mountain ecology and economy have become vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Therefore, we are planning to hold Sagarmatha Dialogue in Kathmandu in April next year with a view to attract international efforts towards conservation of mountain environment and strengthen the economy.

Nepal and China have been standing together in the internal forums for peace, stability and development. Our collaboration is continuing on the regional issues of common concern. At a time when the world is facing a challenge regarding a law-governed world order, collaboration of developing nations is a necessity. In this respect, we appreciate the positive role played by China for the creation of a peaceful, fair and inclusive world order.

Geographically, Nepal and China are immediate neighbours. We are intimate friends shaped by historical, cultural and people-to-people relations. Trade, investment and economic interdependence have made us strong partners to collaborate for a shared future. We are committed to give new momentum to the relations with China and to take it to new heights to fulfill the interests of the two nations and the peoples.

With these words, I propose a toast for the health and happiness of your excellency, for strong friendship between Nepal and China, and permanent peace and prosperity of the peoples of Nepal and People's Republic of China, and call upon all the distinguished guests to join.

Long live Nepal-China friendship.



intimate political relationship. In more than half a century since the diplomatic relations were established between China and Nepal, the two countries have shown to the world an example of friendly relations between neighbours. What I am trying to tell the President is that there is no problem in the relations between China and Nepal, there is only friendship.

Honourable President Bidya Devi Bhandari and I have decided to establish generational relations of strategic partnership oriented towards prosperity and development by doing co-work for common benefit while confronting the bilateral challenges and difficulties.

the two countries will increase. We will actively take ahead the post-earthquake reconstruction project. We will encourage more Chinese tourists to come to Nepal in the Visit Nepal Year 2020. We will increase the understanding between the peoples by increasing the investment in education and culture. We will also encourage more cities of the two countries to propose sister-city relationship. We want this for the seed of friendship between the two countries to sprout.

Just now, the President mentioned Lumbini is the birthplace of the Buddha. Most of the followers of the Buddhist Religion in the world are in China. As in Nepal, the

## Fire destroys houses of refugee camp

By Our Correspondent  
Beldangi (Jhapa), Oct. 13

Fire destroyed nine huts of the Bhutanese refugee camp located in Ward No. 3 of Damak Municipality on Sunday.

The fire that broke out at around 10 am today completely gutted nine houses

an elderly woman Phulmaya Rai, a refugee.

Phulmaya was slightly injured in the fire.

She is currently undergoing treatment in local clinic, Rai said.

Houses of Narmaya Gurung, Narabir Rai, Shahil Tamang, Umesh Bahadur Karki,

Rai, the fire was brought under control after hour-long attempts by using fire trucks of Damak and Guaradaha. The fire had been rapidly expanded in the refugee camp as all the houses were made up of bamboo materials.

A preliminary estimation showed the fire caused damage to property worth Rs. 2.87 million



in the refugee camp, said Police Inspector Dal Kumar Rai of Area Police Office Damak. One house was pulled down to bring the fire under control, Rai said.

As per an initial investigation of the police, the fire had started from a house of

Ganesh Bahadur Karki, Narmaya Lama, Dil Bahadur Mahat and Narmaya Lama Tamang were destroyed in the fire.

House of Madhu Dahal was pulled down to prevent the fire from spreading further in the camp.

According to Inspector

in the refugee camp.

Chief District Officer of Jhapa Udaya Bahadur Rana Magar said that preparation had been started to manage accommodation and relief materials to the displaced refugee families in coordination with the donor agencies.

## Lawmaker Alam arrested over murder charges

By A Staff Reporter/Correspondent  
Kathmandu/Rautahat, Oct. 13

A lawmaker of the main opposition party, the Nepali Congress (NC) was arrested on Sunday morning for his alleged involvement in killing five persons 12 years ago.

A special squad deployed from Nepal Police Headquarters, Kathmandu, detained Mohammad Aftab Alam from his hometown at Rajpur-4 Kharahadawa of Gaur in Rautahat district.

Deputy Inspector General and spokesperson Bishwo Raj Pokharel confirmed Alam's arrest.

Alam was, however, kept at the police custody of the District Police Office, Rautahat. He was elected to the House of Representatives from Rautahat Constituency No. 2. The plain-cloth wearing policemen detained him.

Alam was accused of killing the men, who were injured after a bomb explosion inside his house, by letting them burn inside a brick kiln during the time of first Constituent Assembly election held in 2008, Superintendent of Police (SP)

Bhupendra Khatri of the District Police Office, Rautahat, told The Rising Nepal.

A bomb went off at Alam's house when they were preparing it with the help of some Nepalis and Indian nationals.

Police said that 13 people were injured in the explosion and some of

and mother of Akhtar Miya had filed a written complaint against Alam for killing their sons by burning them alive.

Initially, the police administration had denied taking the written complaint against Alam. The victims' family members had also filed a writ petition at the Supreme

Alam was accused of killing the men, who were injured after a bomb explosion inside his house, by letting them burn inside a brick kiln during the time of first Constituent Assembly election held in 2008. A bomb went off at Alam's house when they were preparing it with the help of some Nepalis and Indian nationals.

they were burnt inside the chimney of a brick kiln. Police had a speculation that Alam might have done it on March 18, 2008.

SP Khatri said that Alam was also accused of destroying the proof related to the incident.

Father of Trilok Pratap Singh

Court seeking justice.

A joint bench of the then judges Shushila Karki and Bharat Bahadur Karki had given a verdict in a favour of the victims on May 29, 2012 and ordered to detain five persons, including Alam for their alleged involvement in the accident.

Alam was former district president of NC and former Forest Minister.

Meanwhile, our district correspondent Yadav Raj Puri stated that in an accident, 25-year old Pintu Singh, Oshi Akhtar of Rajpur Farahadawa and some Indian nationals were killed.

After the incident, deceased Singh's father Shri Narayan Singh and wife of Oshi Ahamad Rukhsana Khatun had filed the charge sheets against Alam, his younger brother Mohammad Mahatabh Alam, Sekh Bhadai, Sekh Momin and Sekh Baluru.

Under the case, the District Court of Gaur and the then Appellate Court of Hetauda had given Alam a clean cheat. DSP and spokesperson of the District Police Office, Rautahat, Nabin Karki said that Alam was arrested as per the order of the Supreme Court.

Supporters of Alam on Sunday afternoon took out a protest rally citing that he was innocent in the incident. The supporters of Alam had tried to encircle the DPO, Rautahat. A huge number of security forces were deployed to contain the protest.



EDITORIAL

Xi’s Vision Of Tourism

CHINESE President Xi Jinping’s two-day state visit to Nepal is likely to have a momentous impact on Nepal’s tourism sector that holds the potential to transform the national economy. Nepal is observing 2020 as Visit Nepal Year with a goal of bringing in two million tourists to the country, up from around 1.2 million in 2018. The country expects some 500 thousand Chinese tourists to visit Nepal in 2020. Nepal has always been in good books of China and Chinese citizens as the two countries enjoy excellent bilateral relations. And President Xi’s visit at this point of time will surely give a great boost to Nepal’s tourism campaign. Moreover, Xi’s announcement in an article printed in this daily the other day as well as the State Banquet organised by President Bidya Devi Bhandari in his honour Saturday evening that China would assist Nepal in hosting the Visit Nepal Campaign and promoting tourism will have a great impact on Nepal’s tourism.

In his article, President Xi has also mentioned that China has a large population following Buddhist religion who would like to pay a visit to Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. He has said the two countries will work towards increasing cultural and religious exchanges between the two counties. In 2018, about 160 thousand Chinese had visited Nepal only exceeded by Indians and the number of visitors from the northern neighbour is growing by around 10 per cent annually. This number is likely to go up significantly as President Xi has expressed commitment to improve connectivity between the two countries and promised support to conduct feasibility study of Kerung-Kathmandu railway, build Kerung-Kathmandu tunnel way and upgrade Arniko highway. These infrastructures will have a far-reaching impact on enhancing people-to-people relation between the two countries.

Currently, Chinese tourists mainly rely on air connectivity; there are about 60 weekly flights between the two countries and some 300,000 people move across the border. The two neighbours have lately signed agreements to operate flights from 15 additional Chinese cities. On the Nepali side, Himalayan Airlines is preparing to operate flights between Kathmandu and Beijing and Nepal Airlines is also making preparations to operate flights to Beijing and Guangzhou. China is also providing indirect support to Nepal’s tourism through the development of civil aviation sector. Chinese companies are involved in the construction of Gautam Buddha International Airport in Bhairahawa and Pokhara International Airport which will play a vital role in attracting more tourists to the country. Besides, China is also assisting Nepal to reconstruct its cultural heritages – Nine-storey Basantapur Palace and Taleju Temple, Seven-storey Nuwakot Palace and Durbar High School, among others, in the wake of 2015 earthquake.

All these initiatives are expected to attract more Chinese tourists to Nepal. The economic condition and purchasing power of the Chinese people has gone up significantly over the years. This is testified by the fact that about 150 million Chinese citizens go to visit various countries around the world and if we can attract only a small portion of this number, we will be able to reap huge benefits. For this, we need to overcome a number of problems facing this prospective sector. They include low capital investment in this sector that has a direct bearing on tourism-related infrastructure and facilities like transportation and communication, hotels and eateries; inadequate means of enjoyment and entertainment for tourists; indifference to protection of natural and cultural heritages; lack of adequate number of tourist information centres; threats to the movement and safety of tourists from one place to another.

Difficult To Get Information

Anuradha Raman

WHEN journalists seek information under the Right to Information Act (RTI), 2005, there are many surprises in store: the information is often denied or responses to queries are partial because the “information is not available”, or “doesn’t pertain” to the department contacted, or is stated to be under the category of exemptions (any information which could affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, or security, strategic, scientific or economic interests is denied). So, we hit the jackpot rarely. In fact, for hundreds of misses, there is probably one hit.

There are several hurdles to seeking information. Accessibility to files depends not only on the type of information sought but also the department from which it is sought. While the Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Home Affairs are notorious for stonewalling queries, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Rural Development are more magnanimous in sharing information.

Two years ago, a colleague and I filed an RTI to understand the BJP government’s publicity blitzkrieg. Apart from the total budget, we sought to know how much had been spent on outdoor publicity; television; small, medium and large newspapers; private radio channels; and the amount allocated for publicity by each Ministry. We were interested in the file notings and wanted to know if taxpayers’ money was well spent. A polite request along with our questions to the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity was directed to the Accounts Wing, with a word of caution: “Information sought in this query is voluminous and

spread across large numbers of files. It is requested that you inspect the available records in the office.”

We were excited; this was just the kind of information we were looking for. However, we were in for a shock when we landed at the office and shown the room where the files were kept. The word of caution became clear: there were mountains and mountains of files stacked in the room. Simply daunted by the volume, we requested for more time. Photocopying the files was ruled out; it would be too expensive.

After some consideration we decided to abandon the exercise, promising ourselves that we would sit with the files with more patience next time. But it is not always that RTI stories are inconclusive or caught in a legal quagmire. Four years ago, a senior official suggested I file an RTI to understand the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Mann Ki Baat aired on All India Radio (AIR). Modi’s monthly broadcast to the nation was an interesting idea, although it was not the first time that a Prime Minister was using AIR. What was different this time was that the fortunes of the public broadcaster had sunk low in the public imagination and it was left to the Prime Minister to salvage its reputation.

I was in for a surprise looking at the data. The files showed that while Mann Ki Baat was a big draw on December 14, 2014, when 5,972 letters were received, the number of letters to AIR’s post box had only been declining since then. Officials were unable to state any reason for this.

RTIs are an excellent tool for journalists to get information, but you need tremendous patience and perseverance to hit that jackpot, as well as hope that officials will cooperate and release the information you want.

- The Hindu



P Kharel

KRISHNA Bahadur Mahara’s resignation as Speaker of the House of Representatives days before Nepal’s biggest festival Dashain early this fortnight, in the wake of an allegation of misconduct with a lady staff, has had a shocking jolt for the political class as well as the voting mass already faced with a variety of problems. The ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) has an opportunity for redeeming some of its lost ground while governing the nation with two-thirds majority the like of which was previously recorded 60 years ago in 1959.

Prompt and swift action has checked the damage it otherwise would have caused for Prime Minister KP Oli’s party. Truth, sometimes, can be strange and painful. Mahara’s fall from the high pedestal came amid an a quick succession of events within 48 hours of the news break, with the woman his three-decade acquaintance charged him of assault, only to retract from it after the target of her wrath paid a visit at the height of demands for his resignation.

Left with hardly any choice when NCP leadership asked him to step down—apparently with stern warning—he tendered his conditional resignation addressed to the Deputy Speaker of the House. Strong advice from his party top-notch leaders made him submit an unconditional resignation letter, which was approved without much ado.

Baggage of misconduct

The manner in which things moved fast

for ensuring the resignation from the high office came as new and refreshing approach to the situation pertaining to the conduct of someone whose supporters had since long created hollow hallow around him. But, as Communication and Information Technology Minister Gokul Baskota clarified, the party would not carry the baggage of any individual’s misconduct. In short, party image could not be compromised by any individual member’s questionable act.

Eyebrows were raised when silence maintained by civil society leaders and gender activists created a conspicuous exposition. The normally quick to react quarters of the civil society seemed at a loss as how to vent their views to the public they had been addressing whenever given a forum. Had it been the slightest of suspicion of recalcitrance on other occasions, they would have aired their views with the full force of their long practised approach. Was it some kind of fear that stilled their voice at the initial stage of the latest scandal? Better strength next time for strength of consistency and quality credibility. In any case, Mahara’s own party came forward to demonstrate speedy decisions.

As for the prime minister’s party in particular and other political organisations in general, Mahara is now a has-been, fallen steeply from the height of grace to rock bottom. Only a high degree of principle put to practice not in fits and starts but with religious commitment can enhance an organisation’s integrity and public trust. This requires regular critical self-assessment of party’s performance, guided by due desire to steer the ship accordingly. Whenever a difficult situation confronts any organisation, expediency might pacify and delay the inevitable but its long-term consequences for both a party and the public could be a high price.

Eyebrows were raised when silence maintained by civil society leaders and gender activists created a conspicuous exposition.

Tide Of Times

The key to maintaining the high character of the rank and file is vigilance against losing sight of publicly pledged goals and policies. When discrepancies seep in, action should step in to check and correct the course without hesitation. This offers the public an assurance that the party accords utmost seriousness to pursuing its policies with inspiring and intelligent integrity. If and when, somewhere something goes wrong on account of misjudgement or because of some individual black sheep straying from party pledge, the leadership should into action for credible amends without any prolonged exercise hemming and hawing.

No one guarantees the good conduct of anyone, whosoever might hold whatsoever a position, and hence the need for the rule of law that is seen to deliver justice—and without delay. Misdemeanour by those holding responsible public positions public in high office sends severe shivers down the spine of the public. High hopes pinned on public institutions should not be allowed to go asunder, lest popular faith in them erodes.

The Mahara case should be allowed to take the full course of the law, as would have been in the case of an average citizen without any powerful force for dubious backing. Such a move by all law enforcement agencies would give the message that the days of impunity are over, and no fish—big or small—would be spared. It would streamline governance for the better, and create greater faith in various agencies.

In order to synchronise the message of rule of law, due focus on corruption should be relentless order of the day. In fact, it would be the single-most important factor in boosting a government’s reputation. Corruption combat is a sure shot in generating immense fund of goodwill from the voting community that elected

the present government with such enthusiasm last year. It would enable the government to earn considerable public support in its other pledges and undertakings.

The cancer of corruption eats into the very vitals of good governance. Pledge alone is inadequate, as past experiences so tellingly emphasise. In this regard, the Commission for Investigating Abuse of Authority (CIAA) and other related state agencies can step up necessary probe for netting the big fish in the deep waters of corruption. Mahara might just not be an exception, and hence the call for the administration to be on constant alert for appropriate action wherever wrong doing occurs. This is good for concerned organisations, welcome for the nation and, above all, for boosting public confidence in the functioning of parties, thus paving way for producing win-win outcomes for all stakeholders.

Address expectations

Oli’s party represents the unique case of a communist party winning multiparty elections conducted by Nepali Congress, which today is the largest opposition grouping in parliament. The outcome was an overwhelming verdict in favour of the communist combination, with Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal at the forefront to the finishing line. Parties, particularly those officially declared as national parties represented in parliament, should join hands in setting major development priorities that inspire hope and deliver benefits to the extent of upgrading the basic quality of life of an average Nepali.

The issue of the right person in the right place has intensified over the years. Were this to be addressed with meticulous care, the outcome would bear rich dividends for all concerned. In case the government is convinced that things are on their track and criticisms of its performance only echo prejudiced comments by die-hard opponents bent on dreaming of its fall, the ruling side has nothing to worry about but only to pursue its course.

(Former chief editor of The Rising Nepal, P. Kharel has been writing for this daily since 1973)

Conflict Over Natural Resources



Kushal Pokharel

Scenario

In this scenario, sectoral policies and legislative frameworks are being revised amid various contradictions and confusions. Additionally, the issue of demarcation of boundaries for revenue sharing on the basis of population or geographical coverage has attracted the attention of policymakers. It is learnt that NNRFC has expedited consultations with the governments of seven provinces and also reviewed practices of India and South Africa. Currently in the phase of data collection from local to national levels, it is challenging for the commission to find out an acceptable way of settling this issue.

Particularly, the management of forest, water and land resource appears daunting. In the forestry sector, the modality of sharing income and resources between the forest user groups and local governments need to be sorted out. Furthermore, the matter of whether or not the Community Forestry User Groups (CFUGs) should be imposed tax burden has become debatable. While the CFUGs are demanding rights to make decision regarding the utilisation of income generated from forest management, the federal policy aims at collecting tax from them. Further, tussle between local government

(rural) municipalities and CFUGs over the stake of the revenue generated by the community will pose a major threat to institutionalising federalism. The matter of performance-based benefit sharing in the era of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and carbon trading is gaining prominence at subnational level. However, the viability of this strategy in the federal Nepal has also become a matter of heated debate.

The second important conflict appears in terms of utilisation, distribution and overall management of water resource. Whether water should be a publicly accessible good or a commercial entity has become much debatable of late against the general principle of water as a common property resource. The use of water for commercial purpose (e.g. hydropower) might ignite conflict between and within provinces. Projects like hydropower have to go through multiple layers of governments often discouraging private investors in water business. The question of whom (which tier of government?) to handover the project and how to distribute revenue appears a tricky proposition in federalism. Nevertheless, the question of licensing authority also looks a complicated matter to settle.

This problem has further

aggravated owing to the location of many rural (municipalities) and provincial boundaries on river channels. For instance, in Lamjung, confrontation between hydropower company and local community was observed pertaining to the shifting of funeral place (mashan ghat) in Marshyangdi river. Furthermore, there is a chance of conflict over perceived values and interests of communities and government. A strong emphasis on revenue at the cost of human civilisation will threaten the lives of indigenous communities and their practices based on water like fishing.

The conflict between the upstream and downstream communities over water access is alarming. Mountain, Chure and Bhabar areas, which are important for water recharge, is a major source of underground water in the flat areas of Terai. Interventions in these upstream areas may affect the water flow downstream. There is already a contestation between Terai communities and upstream areas in relation to land use practices. The upstream people may demand some kind of compensation which is likely to escalate tensions in sharing resource and benefit in the federal context.

Land based conflict also looms large. While the geography with low

population density has more resources, areas with high population density are struggling with resource crunch. Terai has more human population but less forest resources, whereas hill and mountain regions have low human population but ample resources. This unavoidable geographical reality will have a dire effect in resource distribution including the politics of resource governance while federalizing natural resources.

Management

Management of natural resources and the resulting conflicts require a strong policy response. Historical cultural rights and social practices of local communities pertaining to land, water and other resources, and the relationship between upstream and downstream communities have complicated the federalization of natural resources. Economic interests of local government and politicians in natural resources and policy confusion among private investors call for a scientific revenue collection and resource sharing modalities with adequate stakeholder consultation in federalism.

(Pokharel is a member of the Social Science and Research Faculty at NIMS college)

LETTERS

Dashain An Occasion Of Reunion

NEPALI community all over the world celebrated the Dashain festival which lasts for fifteen days. Like most Nepalis, I too celebrated Dashain. I received tika and blessings from my parents and elder relatives. Likewise, I put tika to my younger family members and relatives. I gathered around my relatives who joyously commemorated this festival. People in social media eagerly posted Dashain pictures and shared glimpses of their celebrations.

They enjoyed delicious cuisines and sweets. People flocked from Kathmandu to their respective homes across Nepal to take part in this festival. During Dashain, the roads



seemed less congested and there were fewer people on the streets of Kathmandu.

On Dashami, the tenth and the most important day of Dashain, people were seen shuttling to and fro from their relatives' homes to receive and

give tikas. Thanks to Dashain, Nepali people got to gather with their family members and relatives. This year Nepali communities marked this festival until Sunday, October 13th.

Dixya Poudel  
Lalitpur

50 Years Ago

October 14, 1969

Father’s Day Observed

Kathmandu- Father’s day was observed here today, reports RSS. Sons and daughters offered respect and presented fruits and sweets to their fathers according to the tradition.

Notice To Contributors

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TAILPIECE

An engaged couple was having an intense argument.

She: "If that's the kind of person you are, I'm going to break our engagement right now. My feelings towards you have changed. I don't want anything more to do with you."

He: "In that case give me my ring back!"

She: "My feelings toward you have changed. My feelings about the ring have not..."

+++++

A truck driver was driving along on the freeway. A sign comes up that reads "Low bridge ahead!" Before he knows it, the bridge is right ahead of him and he gets stuck under the bridge. Cars are backed up for miles.

Finally, a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks around to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says, "Got stuck, huh?"

The truck driver says, "No, I was delivering this bridge and ran out of gas."





Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed at the European Council headquarters in Brussels. (Photo: AP)

# WORLD

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Aerial photo shows flooded river overflowing into residential areas in Nagano, Japan. Typhoon Hagibis ripped through Japan, including the Tokyo metropolitan area, leaving more than 250,000 households in Tokyo and nearby regions without power. (Photo: Xinhua)

## Modi posts about acupressure device

ANI  
New Delhi, Oct. 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday put to rest curiosity about an object he was carrying in his hand while plogging on the Mamallapuram beach in Chennai a day before. Modi was in the scenic Tamil Nadu coastal town for a two-day informal summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The prime minister tweeted a video on Twitter about himself picking up litter during his morning walk on the beach. Plogging is an exercise that combines jogging with picking up litter. While many social media users felt moved by the Prime Minister's dedication and

commitment to cleanliness, some others were curious about something other than the garbage collection bag which Modi held in his hand.



The curious Twitterati sparked up a debate on social media, and to end it once and for all, the Prime Minister himself took to Twitter today.

"Since yesterday, many of you have been asking - what is it that I was carrying in my hands when I went plogging at a beach in Mamallapuram. It is an acupressure roller that I often use.

I have found it to be very helpful," Modi tweeted, putting all speculations to rest. He also posted pictures of the acupressure roller he was holding. Acupressure is an ancient Chinese technique which is believed to help blood flow and energy levels in the body and also to help in the treatment of some ailments.

Modi had earlier too spoken in favour of the exercise which not only keeps the body healthy but helps the environment.

## Pakistan PM heads to Iran as tensions rise in Gulf

AFP  
Islamabad, Oct .13

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was heading to Iran Sunday following a request from the United States and Saudi Arabia for him to try to defuse rising tensions in the Gulf. Khan's office said his visit was part of an initiative "to promote peace and security in the region", and that he will hold talks with Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani.

It will be his second visit this year to Iran, which shares a border of around 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) with Pakistan. In a press briefing last week, a spokesman for Pakistan's foreign office said Khan was expected to visit Saudi Arabia, without providing further details. Khan said last month that both the United States and Saudi Arabia had asked him to

mediate with Iran to defuse tensions in the Gulf.

There have been a spate of still unexplained attacks on shipping in and around the vital seaway involving Iran and Western powers, as well as drone attacks on Saudi oil installations.

Washington accused Tehran of attacking the vessels with mines and to be behind the drone assault, something Tehran strongly denies. Pakistan has strong relations with Saudi Arabia -- over 2.5 million of its nationals live and work in the kingdom -- but also maintains good relations with Iran and represents Tehran's consular interests in the United States.

Khan met both US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani at the United Nations last month, shortly after he visited Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Saudi Arabia.



## Britain's Johnson pushes for last-ditch Brexit deal

AFP  
London , Oct. 13

Prime Minister Boris Johnson was to brief his ministers Sunday on progress in Britain's last-ditch efforts to strike a new Brexit agreement with the EU.

Negotiators went behind closed doors for intensive talks in Brussels after Johnson outlined a new set of divorce terms to Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar on Thursday.

But they have very little time left to succeed.

EU leaders will meet in Brussels on Thursday and Friday for a summit held under the pressures of the October 31 Brexit deadline just two weeks away.

They would ideally like to have a full proposal to vote on by then.

But the sides are trying to achieve in a few days what they had failed to in the more than three years since Britons first voted to leave the European Union after nearly 50 years.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will discuss the available options with French President Emmanuel Macron late Sunday and Johnson is to brief his cabinet at lunchtime.

European officials said the bloc's Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier will also brief EU ambassadors on the state of play on Sunday evening.

Whether such a fudge suits both Brussels and the more ardent Brexit backers in parliament who must still approve a deal should become clearer in the coming days.



The few details that have leaked out suggest a compromise around the contentious Irish border issue that keeps Britain's Northern Ireland partially aligned with EU customs rules.

Johnson rose to power in July on a promise not to extend Brexit for a third time -- even for a few weeks.

Breaking that pledge could come back to haunt him in an early

general election that most predict for the coming months.

"Getting Brexit done by 31 October is absolutely crucial," Johnson reaffirmed in a statement on Sunday.

- Parliamentary pressure -

Ireland's Varadkar hinted on Thursday that he could support the talks running on up to the October 31 deadline if a deal seemed within reach.

But Britain will only avoid a chaotic breakup with its closest trading partners if the agreement is also passed by the parliament in London -- something it has failed to do three times.

Johnson heads a minority government and must rely on the full backing of not only his own fractured Conservatives but also Northern Ireland's small Democratic Unionist Party.

DUP's parliamentary leader Nigel Dodds warned Johnson that "Northern Ireland must remain entirely in the customs union of the United Kingdom" and not the EU.

"And Boris Johnson knows it very well," Dodds told Italy's La Repubblica newspaper.

The comments do not necessarily rule out DUP support.

UK media are presenting Johnson's mooted compromise as a "double customs" plan that could be interpreted to mean that Northern Ireland is leaving EU rules.

But the details are still under discussion and the prime minister's allies are urging lawmakers to give the British leader a chance.

The government's parliament representative, Jacob Rees-Mogg, a leading member of the Conservatives' anti-EU lobby, insisted that Johnson has the Brexit credentials to succeed.

"I think he is somebody that even the most arch-euro-sceptic, even a member of the Brexit Party, can trust and have confidence in," Rees-Mogg told Sky television.

Main opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn signalled on Sunday that he would wait for the outcome of the EU summit before trying to force an early election.

"We will look at any deal that comes up before we trigger an election," Corbyn told Sky.

Johnson is under parliamentary orders to seek a Brexit extension if no deal emerges by Saturday.

He has promised to both follow the law and yet get Britain out by October 31 -- a contradiction that might end up being settled in court.

## Typhoon leaves 19 dead, 16 missing in Japan

AP  
Tokyo, Oct. 13

Helicopters, boats and thousands of troops were deployed across Japan Sunday to rescue people stranded in flooded homes Sunday as the death toll from a ferocious typhoon climbed to at least 19 with more than a dozen missing. One woman fell to her death from a rescue helicopter.

Public broadcaster NHK said 14 rivers across the nation had flooded, some spilling out in more than one spot. The Tokyo Fire Department said a woman in her 70s was accidentally dropped 40 meters (131 feet) to the ground while being transported into a rescue helicopter in Iwaki city in Fukushima prefecture, a northern area devastated by the typhoon.

She was rushed to a hospital but died, a department official said. The casualty toll was compiled by Kyodo News service and was higher than one given by the government spokesman earlier Sunday, a day after Typhoon Hagibis made landfall south of Tokyo and battered central and northern Japan with torrents of rain and powerful gusts of wind. The typhoon was downgraded to a tropical storm Sunday.

"The major typhoon has caused immense damage far and wide in eastern Japan," government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters, adding that 27,000 military troops and other rescue crews were taking part in the operation.

News footage showed a rescue helicopter hovering in a flooded area in Nagano prefecture where an embankment of the Chikuma River broke, and streams of water were continuing to spread over residential areas.

The chopper plucked those stranded on the second floor of a home submerged in muddy waters.

Aerial footage showed tractors at work trying to control the flooding and several people on a rooftop, with one waving white cloth to get the attention of a helicopter. Nearby was a child's school bag. In another part, rows of Japan's prized bullet trains, parked in a facility, were sitting in a pool of water.

A stretch of Fukushima, in the city of Date, was also flooded with only rooftops of residential homes visible in some areas, and rescuers paddled in boats to get people out. Parts of nearby Miyagi prefecture were also under water. The Tama River, which runs by Tokyo, overflowed its banks, flooding homes and other buildings in the area.

Authorities warned of a risk of mudslides. Among the reported deaths were those whose homes were buried in landslides. Other fatalities included people who got swept away by raging rivers. Suga said recovery was on its way. Some 376,000 homes were without electricity, and 14,000 homes lacked running water, he said.

Boats as well as helicopters were sent to the flooded areas, while rescue crew dug through dirt elsewhere to try to get people out from homes buried by landslides. Several train service in the Tokyo area resumed early morning, although others were undergoing safety checks and were expected to restart later Sunday.

Ruling party politician Fumio Kishida said the government will do its utmost in rescue operations, including making sure that those who moved to shelters were taken care of.

### PRISM

#### Lost dog reunited with owner 12 years later

Florida: A 14-year-old toy fox terrier was reunited with its Florida owner in Pittsburgh after being missing for 12 years. Dutchess got loose on Feb. 28, 2007, from her home in Boca Raton. Kathryn Strang took two days to make the drive to Pittsburgh for the reunion at Humane Animal Rescue's shelter on Friday.

"Dutchess," Strang said to workers at the shelter and the media. "Hi, baby, I've missed you so."

Someone found the dog under a shed in Carnegie on Tuesday -- hungry, shivering and in need of a nail trim. She was brought to the shelter.

"She was really nervous and needed a nail trim," said Torin Fisher, an admissions counselor with the shelter.

Because the dog was microchipped with the owner's information on it implanted, Fisher was able to contact Strang.

#### Giant 3D printer racks up three Guinness World Records

Maine: The new 3D printer at the University of Maine has already racked up three Guinness World Records, including one for the world's largest 3D printer.

Guinness officials visited the school and certified the school's 3D printer was the largest in the world, and a boat printed by the machine was bestowed with titles for the world's largest 3D printed object and the world's largest 3D printed boat.

The boat, dubbed 3Dirigo, measures 25 feet long and weighs about 5,000 pounds, the school said. It took about 72 hours to print the boat, which the school said could have military applications.

(Agency)

### Today in History

- 1808 – The Republic of Ragusa is annexed by France.
- 1843 – Irish nationalist Daniel O'Connell arrested by British on charges of criminal conspiracy.
- 1952 – Korean War: The Battle of Triangle Hill is the biggest and bloodiest battle of 1952.
- 1956 – Dr. B. R. Ambedkar converts from Hinduism to Buddhism along with 385,000 of his followers.
- 2017 – A massive truck bombing in Somalia kills 358 people and injures more than 400 others.

Source: www.wikipedia.org





# MISCELLANY

Former Prime Minister  
Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda  
speaking at the tea reception  
hosted by Nepali Congress at  
Sanepa, Sunday.  
*(Photo: RSS)*



Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and NC President Sher Bahadur Deuba at the tea reception hosted by the Nepali Congress in the capital on Sunday.

*(Photo: Sagar Basnet/TRN)*

## Chinese President...

principles are of prime importance.

President Xi also held a meeting with the secretariat leaders of the ruling Nepal Communist Party on Sunday.

Earlier, Xi held meeting with Sher Bahadur Deuba, president of the main opposition party Nepali Congress on Saturday evening where the two leaders talked about economic and political exchanges and bilateral support in national and international issues.

The two heads of state - Xi and Bhandari, in a meeting held the other day, agreed to develop friendship and partnership that would help in development and prosperity for many generations to come.

President Xi maintained that China would expedite the development of Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Infrastructure, and said that the northern neighbour wanted to support Nepal in realising its dream to become a land-linked country from the landlocked country.

Agreements and MoUs signed during Xi’s visit

1. Agreement on Boundary Management System

2. Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

3. MoU on Exchanges and Cooperation on Governance Capacity Building

4. MoU on Sagarmatha Protection Cooperation

5. MoU on Promoting Key Projects of Investment and Cooperation on Productive Capacity

6. Exchange of Note for Setting up a Consulate General of Nepal in Chengdu

7. MoU on Feasibility Study of China-Nepal Cross-Border Railway Project

8. Agreement on the Establishment of Sister-City Relationship between Kathmandu and Nanjing

9. Agreement on Sister-City Relationship between Butwal and Xi’an

10. MoU on Cooperation on Traditional Medicine

11. MoU on Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response

12. MoU on Cooperation between Chinese Supreme People’s Procurator and Nepal’s Office of the Attorney General

13. Agreement on the Establishment of Confucius Institute at the Tribhuvan University

14. Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Citrus Fruits from Nepal to China

15. MoU on the Establishment of Joint Working Group on Trade

16. Certificate for China Aid Earthquake Monitoring Network Project in Nepal

17. MoU on the Establishment of Investment Cooperation Working Group

18. MoU on Tunnels Construction Cooperation

19. Exchange of Letter for Border Security Equipment and Office Equipment

20. Minutes of Meeting for Feasibility Investigation of China Aid Municipal Water Supply Improvement Project in Kathmandu

## President Xi’s visit...

He said that the visit had built suitable environment and prepared a practical base for further cooperation between the two neigh bours.

General Secretary of the Nepali Congress Dr. Shashanka Koirala said that the Chinese President visited Nepal after a long gap.

He said that his party had no objection to the commitments made by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Nepal as the Nepali Congress never made any objection to the positive works.

He said party president Sher Bahadur Deuba was also positive towards the visit of President Xi.

“There might have been positive discussions between XI and our party president. The visit is historic as it was made after a very long time. It is the good step to make the bilateral relation more cordial. I think, the visit has been beneficial for Nepal,” Dr. Koirala said.

He said that construction of railway by increasing domestic production, mostly agriculture products, would help for the country’s prosperity.

Nepali Congress joint-general secretary and former foreign minister Dr. Prakash Saran Mahat said that the visit had been good and was as per the expectation of the Nepali people.

“We have discussed on connectivity, the commitment has been made to upgrade roads in the border entry points and making detailed project report (DPR) of cross border railway,” he said.

Nepal should make follow-up homework for the implementation of the agreements signed with China, he said.

## President Bhandari performs puja

**RSS**  
Bhaktapur, Oct. 13

President Bidya Devi Bhandari performed puja at the Nawadurga Temple in Bhaktapur today, marking the Kojagrat Purnima, the last day of Dashain festival.

On the occasion, President Bhandari was offered tika, jamara, offerings, garlands and five-colored thread by the Chief Priest at the Temple, Krishna Kumar Bannmala.

Bhandari, who reached the temple at afternoon, after seeing off her Chinese Counterpart Xi Jinping, received tika, jamara and prasad from the chief priest, said the President's Office.

The Head of the State offered dakshina to the chief priest and other temple officials who performed traditional dances.

Unlike last when the President would return after receiving the Prasad, Bhandari this year observed the Nawadurga dances performed following the puja in the Temple. President Bhandari also observed the idols of nine

## Cooperation to cover...

private sector has long been demanding the operationalisation of the Chinese banks in Nepal in order to make the trade and economic activities between the two countries formal.

According to the Ministry of Finance, the government is trying to bring a Chinese bank in joint-venture with a Nepali bank, but the former is interested to open its branch instead of a JV.

Likewise, the two neighbours have agreed to establish working groups on investment cooperation and trade under the framework of Nepal-China Joint Commission on Economy and Trade, to facilitate the respective activities.

The two countries will sign an MoU on cooperation on Import and Export of Food Safety in near future. They signed a protocol on phyto-sanitary requirements for the Export of Citrus Fruits from Nepal to China.

According to the joint statement, energy exchange between the two countries is likely to happen soon as they agreed to carry out Nepal-China Electric Power Cooperation Plan and complete it within one year. They also agreed to take this plan as an important reference for the next step of bilateral electric power cooperation and promote its implementation. There will be greater exchanges and cooperation in hydropower, wind power, solar power, biomass energy and other kinds of new energies and grid systems.

Tapping on the aspiration of Nepal, the world’s second largest economy has assured its support in establishing a multidisciplinary Madan Bhandari University for Science and Technology and promised to start work immediately after the government chooses a suitable site for the institution.

The two neighbours also signed an agreement for Boundary Management system to enhance and improve the level of cooperation in the area. They said that a joint scientific research would be conducted to measure the height of Sagarmatha (Zhumulangma).

China has also promised its support to promote Visit Nepal Year 2020 in China through various activities and said that it would welcome Nepal to participate in the travel marts being organised in China.

## Former justice Yadav passes away

**By A Staff Reporter**  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

Supreme Court’s former justice Awadhesh Kumar Yadav passed away on Saturday. He was 72.

Former justice Yadav died while undergoing treatment at Nobel Medical College, Biratnagar.

His final rites were performed at his ancestral village, Diman, of Saptari also on Saturday. He is survived by his wife, one daughter and three sons.

Yadav was first appointed as an Additional Judge of the then Appellate Court Dipalyar in 1991. Later, he was appointed Chief Judge of the Appellate Court Tulsipur in 2006.

He served as a Justice at the Supreme Court between 2008 and 2012.

Earlier, he had worked as a lawyer for 20 years.

Besides, he had taught International Law and other subjects as a lecturer at MBM Campus Rajbiraj for 10 years.

## Girija Prasad Koirala’s contributions lauded

**By A Staff Reporter**  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

Former President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav said on Sunday that changing the governance system and establishing republic in the country would have been impossible had there not been leader Girija Prasad Koirala.

Speaking at ‘National and International Committees introduction and interaction programme’ organised by Girija Prasad Koirala Foundation, Dr. Yadav said the regime change was possible due to then Nepali Congress president and former Prime Minister late GP Koirala’s tall personality and his acceptance by India, China, the United States of America and the European countries.

He further said that the 12-point agreement with the then rebel Maoist

was possible also due to Koirala’s determination.

He said Koirala was synonymous with peace, democracy, republic and federalism, and we could discuss each of these topics linking with Koirala.

He urged the leaders to give up personal interest to make the federal democratic republic successful and stronger and to safeguard peace, democracy and national interest.

NC general secretary Dr. Shashanka Koirala said late Koirala was founder of country’s economic development in the capacity of elected prime minister after the restoration of democracy in 1990.

Foundation chair and former deputy prime minister Sujata Koirala said that for development and prosperity consensus, co-work and unity were essential which were prescribed by late GP Koirala.

Former Finance Minister and NC leader Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat said the One-China policy was adopted during BP Koirala’s premiership and till now it was equally relevant.

NC leader Dr. Shekhar Koirala said the NC leadership was trying to formulate party regulations with an intention of controlling freedom of thought in the party. He warned the party would collapse if such provision was introduced.

NC lawmaker Man Bahadur Bishwokarma, National Planning Commission’s former vice-chair Dr. Govinda Pokharel and others highlighted the contribution of GP Koirala.

The Foundation is a non-profit and non-political organisation, which has its committee in all 77 districts and abroad as well.

## Islamic State supporters escape in Syria as US pulls back

**AP**  
Akcaale, Oct. 13

Hundreds of Islamic State supporters escaped from a displaced-persons camp in northern Syria on Sunday amid heavy clashes between invading Turkish-led forces and Kurdish fighters, and President Donald Trump ordered all U.S. troops to withdraw farther south to avoid getting caught in the fighting.

The twin developments reflected growing chaos in Syria, where the Turkish offensive has raised fears it will destabilize the region, create another refugee crisis and allow the battered Islamic State group to make a comeback.

A U.S. military official said that the situation across northeastern Syria was "deteriorating rapidly" and that American forces were cut off from the Kurdish fighters they had previously been allied with.

The official, who was not authorised to disclose operational details and spoke on condition of anonymity, said U.S. troops on the ground are at risk of being "isolated" and cannot travel overland without a "high risk" of confrontation with Turkey-backed forces.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper

told CBS' "Face the Nation" that the approximately 1,000 U.S. troops in Syria are not leaving the country entirely but are trying to avoid becoming embroiled in the conflict.

"In the last 24 hours, we learned that they (the Turks) likely intend to expand their attack further south than originally planned — and to the west," he added.

The danger to American forces was shown on Friday, when a small number of U.S. troops fell under Turkish artillery fire at an observation post in the north. No Americans were hurt. Esper called that an example of "indiscriminate fire" coming close to Americans, adding it was unclear whether that was an accident.

Trump, in a tweet, said: "Very smart not to be involved in the intense fighting along the Turkish Border, for a change. Those that mistakenly got us into the Middle East Wars are still pushing to fight. They have no idea what a bad decision they have made."

The heavy fighting Sunday reached the displaced-persons camp in Ein Eissa, some 35 kilometers (20 miles) south of the border, which is home to some 12,000 people, including 1,000 wives and widows of Islamic State fighters and their children.





# DETOUR

## Joint Statement Between Nepal and China

At the invitation of Rt. Hon. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, paid a state visit to Nepal from 12 to 13 October 2019.

During the visit, President Xi met with President Bhandari, held talks with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and attended the welcoming banquet by President Bhandari. In a warm and cordial atmosphere, leaders of the two countries reached broad understanding through in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relationship and regional and international issues of common concern.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the fact that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1955, Nepal-China relationship has withstood changes of the international situation and has been growing in a consistent, steady and healthy manner, which sets a model of peaceful coexistence between the two countries of different size. Both sides recognized that the bilateral relationship between the two countries is characterized by equality, harmonious coexistence, everlasting friendship and comprehensive cooperation.

Nepal and China take the Belt and Road Initiative as an important opportunity to deepen mutually-beneficial cooperation in all fields in a comprehensive manner, jointly pursue common prosperity and dedicate themselves to maintaining peace, stability and development in the region. The bilateral relationship between Nepal and China has entered a new phase. Both sides decided to, on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Charter of the United Nations and principles of good neighbourliness, elevate Nepal-China Comprehensive Partnership of Cooperation Featuring Ever-lasting Friendship to Strategic Partnership of Cooperation Featuring Ever-lasting Friendship for Development and Prosperity.

The two sides agreed to respect each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and respect and accommodate each other's concerns and core interests. The two sides will adhere to good neighboring policy and deepen overall cooperation in a win-win manner, so as to achieve mutual benefit and pursue stability and development together.

The Nepali side reiterated its firm commitment to One China policy, acknowledging that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory and Tibet affairs are China's internal affairs, and the determination on not allowing any anti-China activities on its soil. The Chinese side reiterated its firm support to Nepal in upholding the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and its firm support and respect to Nepal's social system and development path independently chosen in the light of Nepal's national conditions.

The Chinese side congratulated Nepal on the historic and epoch-making political transformation and its rapid economic and social development. It believed that the Nepali people would unite as one and keep marching towards the vision of 'Samriddha Nepal, Sukhi Nepali' ('Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'), so as to achieve political stability, social harmony and rapid economic development. The Chinese side expressed willingness to continue interacting with the Nepali side on the experience of governance.

The Nepali side congratulated on the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and expressed its admiration to China's miraculous achievement in development over the past 70 years and sincerely wished that under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the Chinese people would keep striving to realize the two centenary goals and build China a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful.

Both sides underlined that high-level contacts are of special importance to the development of bilateral relations. The two sides agreed to maintain the momentum of high-level visits, deepen political mutual trust and expand



President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping shaking hands with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli at the signing ceremony held in Kathmandu on Sunday morning. Photo:Bikash Dware/TRN

exchanges and cooperation between government ministries, departments, legislatures and political parties at all levels.

The two sides agreed to intensify implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative to enhance connectivity, encompassing such vital components as ports, roads, railways, aviation and communications within the overarching framework of trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network with a view to significantly contributing to Nepal's development agenda that includes graduating from LDC at an early date, becoming middle income country by 2030 and realizing the SDGs by the same date.

The two sides, while recalling the MoU signed between the two countries on 21 June 2018 on Cooperation in Railway Project, agreed to conduct the feasibility study as outlined in the MoU signed on 13 October 2019, which will lay an important foundation to launching the construction of the Cross-Border Railway. Both sides also reiterated their commitment to extend cooperation on Kathmandu-Pokhara-Lumbini Railway Project.

The two sides welcomed the reopening and restoration of the freight functions of the Zhangmu/Khasa port, and will optimize the functions of the Jilong/Keyrung port and open the Lizi/Neuchung port at the earliest possible time and build necessary infrastructure on the Nepali side of the border.

Both sides would keep implementing the Protocol concerning the Utilization of Highway in Tibet, China by Nepal for Cargo Transport and the Protocol to the Agreement on Transit Transport. On the basis of maintaining the long-term operational condition of the Araniko Highway, both sides agreed to cooperate on upgrading and reconstructing the highway on a priority basis in a step-by-step manner. The Chinese side conveyed its readiness in initiating the repair of Syaphrubesi-Rasuwadaghi Highway.

Realizing the importance of enhanced level of connectivity between the two countries, the two sides agreed to proactively cooperate on the feasibility study for the construction of tunnels along the road from Jilong/Keyrung to Kathmandu.

The Chinese side noted the request made by the Nepali side for

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the United Nations and other multilateral fora and to safeguard common interests of developing countries. Both sides exchanged fruitful views on promoting collaboration and strengthening cooperation in regional issues and agreed to support each other on matters of mutual interest.

the construction of Kimathanka-Leguawaghat section of the Koshi Highway and agreed to consider this project in future cooperation plan and requested the Nepali side to submit a detailed proposal.

The two sides reiterated their commitment to undertake study on the possibility of cooperation, as reflected in the Joint Statement issued in Beijing on 21 June 2018, for the development of the three North-South corridors in Nepal, namely Koshi Economic Corridor, Gandaki Economic Corridor and Karnali Economic corridor in order to create jobs and improve local livelihood, and stimulate economic growth and development.

The Chinese side will extend assistance for training Nepali technical human resources in the field of railway, road and tunnel engineering as well as inland waterways and shipping.

Both sides welcomed the consensus reached by the civil aviation authorities of the two countries on expanding the air rights arrangements, under the framework of which the airlines of both countries are encouraged to launch/operate more direct air services. Both sides will coordinate closely to speed up the construction of the Pokhara International Airport so that it would start operation at an early date.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the successful commercial operation of Nepal-China cross-border optical fiber cable and agreed to further strengthen cooperation on information and communications for mutual benefit.

The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in various fields of economy

including trade, tourism, investment, capacity of production and improving people's livelihood so as to promote mutual development.

Under the framework of Nepal-China Joint Commission on Economy and Trade, the two sides will establish a working group on investment cooperation and a working group on trade led by secretary/vice minister-level officials or their designates so as to facilitate bilateral investment and trade. The Chinese side welcomed the Nepali side to participate in the National Exhibition of the Second China International Import Expo to be held in Shanghai in November 2019.

Both sides will hold comprehensive discussions with a view to strengthening trade relations between the two countries. The Chinese side will take positive measures to expand Nepal's export to China. The Chinese side will consider providing technical support for the establishment of a multifunctional laboratory in Nepal and extend necessary cooperation to make Tatopani Frontier Inspection Station at Larcha fully functional. Nepal will facilitate the Chinese banks to open their branches and other financial services in Nepal with a view to facilitating trade and investment between the two countries. Both sides will complete their internal procedures at the earliest time for the operationalization of the Protocol to the Transit Transport Agreement and try their best to implement it at an early date.

Both sides welcomed the signing of the Protocol on Phytosanitary requirements for the Export of Citrus Fruits from Nepal to China and agreed

to conclude MoU on Cooperation on Import and Export of Food Safety at the earliest.

The two sides will continue cooperation on production capacity and investment according to the principles of 'dominated by enterprises, respecting business principles, adhering to market-orientation and following international common practice'.

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Cooperation between the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation of Nepal and the National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China signed on 21 June 2018, both sides will bring into full play the Joint Implementation Mechanism (JIM) on Nepal-China Cooperation in energy sector, to carry out exchanges and cooperation in the fields of hydropower, wind power, solar power, biomass energy and other kinds of new energy as well as grid systems, etc. Both sides agreed to jointly carry out Nepal-China Electric Power Cooperation Plan and complete it within one year. Both sides agreed to take this Plan as an important reference for the next step of bilateral electric power cooperation and promote its implementation.

The Nepali side extended its deep appreciation to the Chinese side for the valuable support it has been providing in Nepal's development efforts and for the timely, spontaneous and generous support extended to Nepal's reconstruction after the earthquake in 2015.

The Chinese government will continue to provide assistance to Nepal's economic and social development within its capacity with an emphasis on strengthening cooperation in the field of improving people's livelihood.

The Chinese side attached great importance to the aspiration of the Nepali side to establish a multidisciplinary Madan Bhandari University for Science and Technology as a mark of respect to People's Leader Late Madan Bhandari and will extend support at the earliest date after the Nepali side chooses a suitable site for the university.

Both sides will continue their discussion on the basis of the report to be submitted by the site visit working group of the Chinese side.

The Chinese side is willing to expedite the project of improving the quality of supplied water in Kathmandu.

The Chinese side noted Nepal's proposal on Integrated Development, including resettlement of scattered population in the Himalayan Region of Nepal. The Chinese side is willing to share experiences and consider cooperating with the Nepali side on this proposal.

Recognizing that Mount Sagarmatha/Zhumulangma is an eternal symbol of the friendship between Nepal and China, the two sides will promote cooperation in different fields, including addressing climate change and protecting the environment. They will jointly announce the height of the Mount Sagarmatha/Zhumulangma and conduct scientific researches.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Boundary Management System, which will improve the level of boundary management and cooperation for both sides. They were also satisfied with signing the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and expressed hope for an early conclusion of the Treaty on Extradition. The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation between the law enforcement agencies on information exchanges, capacity building and training. In the next 3 years, China will offer 100 training opportunities to the Nepali law enforcement officers each year. With a view to promoting cooperation in security sector, the two sides will continue to strengthen cooperation in the exchange of visits of the security personnel, joint exercises and training, disaster prevention and reduction and personnel training.

The two sides agreed to promote exchanges and cooperation in education, culture, tourism, traditional medicine, media, think tanks and youth at different levels. The Chinese side will offer the Nepali side 100 Confucius Institute Scholarships. The Chinese side supports the Nepali side to hold the activity of Visit Nepal Year 2020, welcomes the Nepali side to participate in the travel marts held in China and is willing to facilitate Nepal's promotion on tourism in China. The Chinese side will hold the 9th China Festival and the 4th Kathmandu Cultural Forum in Nepal, and continue to encourage the Chinese Cultural Centre and the Confucius Institute to promote Nepal-China cultural exchanges and cooperation. The two sides welcomed that Kathmandu of Nepal and Nanjing of China and Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City of Nepal and Xi'an city of China had developed friendship-city relations.

The Chinese side consented to the establishment of Nepal's Consulate General in Chengdu, Sichuan Province of China.

Both sides agreed to revitalize the existing mechanisms between the two countries to further strengthen relations and advance mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields.

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the United Nations and other multilateral fora and to safeguard common interests of developing countries. Both sides exchanged fruitful views on promoting collaboration and strengthening cooperation in regional issues and agreed to support each other on matters of mutual interest. The two sides expressed firm commitment to the multilateral trading regime and work for a more open, inclusive and balanced economic globalization with shared benefits.

Both sides held that President Xi Jinping's State visit, on the historic occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, to Nepal marked the beginning of a new era in Nepal-China relations and served as an important milestone in the history of friendly cooperation between the two countries. The Chinese side would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the Government of Nepal and its people for their warm and friendly reception.

President Xi Jinping sincerely invited Nepali leaders to visit China again at the convenience of both sides. The two sides will stay in touch via diplomatic channels.

Kathmandu  
13 October 2019

(Source: Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nepal)



# SPORTS

Daniil Medvedev won his fourth title of a spectacular year with a thumping 6-4, 6-1 victory over Alexander Zverev in the Shanghai Masters final on Sunday. Victory for the 23-year-old Russian, contesting a sixth final in a row, was more evidence that he is the prime contender to join the “Big Three” of Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. (AFP)



**Nepal, Bhutan settle for draw**  
By A Staff Reporter  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

Nepal and Bhutan played 1-1 draw in their last group match of the SAFF U15 Women Championship at Chalimithang Stadium, Thimpu on Sunday.

Nepal opened the account in the second half from the goal of Nikita Thokar in the 50th minute but host Bhutan restored the parity in the 67th minute from the goal of Deki Ihazom. Nepal played a goalless draw in the first half. Nepal strikers failed to tap in the few opportunities they got.

Both Nepal and Bhutan have already crashed out of the tournament after suffering two defeats in a row. Nepal went down to India by 1-4 and lost to Bangladesh by 1-2 while host Bhutan suffered 2-0 loss against Bangladesh and 10-1 defeat against India.

India and Bangladesh entered the final after settling at the top two position of the table. Both India and Bangladesh collected seven points with two win and one draw. But India topped the table being superior in goal difference.

Nepal changed three players from the first XI against Bhutan. Coach Rakesh Shrestha rested Sushma Ghartimagar, Nikita Thokar and Mandira Rai and gave opportunity to the new faces Manjukumari Khadka, Mamata Pun and Sunkala Rai.

## Italy clinch place at Euro 2020 as Spain made to wait

AFP  
Rome, Oct. 13

Italy became the second team to qualify for Euro 2020 after a 2-0 win over Greece on Saturday, while three-time champions Spain edged closer to the finals despite conceding a stoppage-time equaliser away to Norway.

Chelsea midfielder Jorginho dispatched a second-half penalty as Italy, wearing green kits for just the second time in history, registered a seventh straight win in Group J.

The Azzurri, who failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, added a second in Rome on 78 minutes through a deflected strike from Juventus forward Federico Bernardeschi.

Roberto Mancini's side joined Belgium in the draw for next year's finals, where Italy will play their first two group games at the Stadio Olimpico.

"We managed to create a team in a short period of time. It wasn't easy but you have to thank the players, who have quickly developed an understanding between themselves," said Mancini, who took over as Italy coach 18 months ago.

"It's a team with character that fights and plays with the ball but one that must also improve. Now we have a year to try and get better.

"We have a lot of work but we're not very far from the best European teams. I'm happy and proud to have helped the national team come through a tough patch."

Spain dropped their first points in Group F as Joshua King converted a 94th-minute spot-kick to rescue a 1-1 draw for Norway following a foul by



The Italian soccer team celebrates after the end of the Euro 2020 group J qualifying soccer match against Greece in Rome, Italy, Saturday. (Photo: AP)

goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga on Omar Elabdellaoui.

Sergio Ramos broke the Spanish international appearances record as he won his 168th cap in Oslo to overtake Iker Casillas.

The visitors led when Saul Niguez slammed home from 20 yards moments after half-time but Spain were denied a seventh win in a row as King's equaliser kept Norway in the running.

"It's a real pain to lose points in the final seconds. It's complicated to play against a team who knew that if they lost they were pretty much out," said Spain captain Ramos.

Norway last qualified for a major tournament at the 2000 European Championship and are fourth in the group, four points adrift of neighbours

Sweden with three games to play.

Sebastian Larsson netted two spot-kicks as Sweden cruised to a 4-0 rout of Malta to reclaim second place behind Spain. Marcus Danielson broke the deadlock on 11 minutes in Ta' Qali and home skipper Andrei Agius also scored an own goal.

Romania remain a point behind Sweden following a 3-0 win in the Faroe Islands secured by second-half goals from George Puscas, Ionut Mitrita and Claudiu Keseru.

**Schmeichel denies Switzerland**  
Kasper Schmeichel produced a series of excellent saves as Denmark defeated Switzerland 1-0 to climb level with the Republic of Ireland in Group D.

Leicester City goalkeeper

Schmeichel pulled off superb stops to deny Granit Xhaka, Admir Mehmedi and Ricardo Rodriguez before Yussuf Poulsen grabbed an 84th-minute winner for Denmark in Copenhagen.

The Danes moved up to 12 points alongside group leaders Ireland, who drew 0-0 away to Georgia, while Switzerland are four points off the pace but with a game in hand.

"We battled for the whole game, there was a tremendous atmosphere. I think that was one of my best performances for Denmark," said Schmeichel.

Mick McCarthy's Ireland couldn't establish any momentum earlier in the day in Tbilisi and were left frustrated by wayward finishing from their few opportunities to break the deadlock.

## India record 11<sup>th</sup>-straight Test series win

AFP  
Pune, Oct. 13

Umesh Yadav led an inspired bowling display as India thrashed South Africa by an innings and 137 runs in the second Test to clinch a record 11th-straight series triumph at home on Sunday.

The tourists were dismissed for 189 after following-on in the final session of day four in Pune, as India took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Vernon Philander, who made 37, and Keshav Maharaj, who scored 22, put up a brief resistance during their 56-run eighth-wicket stand, but Yadav broke through with the wicket of Philander.

He took his third wicket after sending back Kagiso Rabada for four and spinner Ravindra Jadeja trapped Maharaj lbw to wrap up the game as India went past Australia's 10-series wins on home turf. Jadeja returned figures of 3-52.

The win also consolidated India's number-one position in the world Test championship with 200 points. Skipper Virat Kohli set up the win with his unbeaten 254 -- a record seventh double-century for the star batsman -- in India's 601 for five declared.

Ravichandran Ashwin struck twice in the morning



India's cricket team wicket keeper Wriddhiman Saha takes a catch of South Africa's Faf du Plessis during fourth day of second cricket test match in Pune, India, Sunday. (Photo: AP)

session after the tourists started their second innings trailing by 326.

Ashwin had du Plessis -- who promoted himself to number four in the batting order -- caught behind for five with wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha holding on to a juggling catch.

The off-spinner soon got opening batsman Dean Elgar caught for 48 as South Africa slipped further. Paceman Ishant Sharma struck with his second ball of the day to trap Aiden Markram lbw for nought.

Markram had a long

discussion with Elgar over whether to review the on-field call but walked, only for the replays to suggest the ball would have gone over the stumps. The Proteas were dismissed for 275 at the end of day three in response to India's 601-5 declared, 127 short of the follow-on.

South Africa put up some resistance in their first innings with Maharaj, who made 72, and Philander, 44 not out, putting on 109 runs for the ninth wicket to frustrate the Indian bowlers.

Ashwin broke the stand with Maharaj's wicket and

then got last man Rabada to return figures of 4-69.

The match will also be remembered for his Kohli's marathon knock as he surpassed Don Bradman's tally of 6,996 runs.

Kohli, who now has 7,054 runs from 81 Tests, put together crucial partnerships including a 225-run fifth-wicket stand with Jadeja, who made 91, to extend India's dominance. Opener Mayank Agarwal also contributed with a century.

The two teams now head to Ranchi for the final match starting October 19.

## Langer unsure if Smith wants Australia captaincy back

AFP  
Melbourne, Oct. 13

Steve Smith's ban on leading Australia ends in March but the star batsman may not want the Test captaincy back, coach Justin Langer says.

Smith skippered the team until he was suspended for 12 months over a brazen attempt to alter the ball with sandpaper under his watch in Cape Town last year. Part of his punishment included a further year-long exile from any leadership role.

Calls have grown for Smith to take over from Tim Paine when the ban is lifted since his incredible batting performances helped Australia retain the Ashes against England.

But Langer said it was not a simple decision, with Smith admitting his exploits -- 774 runs in just seven innings -- left him mentally and physically shattered. "I've built a good relationship with Steve over the last 18 months, and it (the captaincy) is going to come down to honest conversations," the coach told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Saturday.

"You can see how exhausted he was from the effort he put into his batting (during the Ashes), and whether he wants the burden of captaincy as well is something we'll have to work out over time. "I'll be one of the selectors, and I think we'll just work out what's best."

Paine, who will be 35 in December, will almost certainly retain the role for the home summer Test series against Pakistan and New Zealand, despite occasional criticism of his batting and captaincy during the Ashes.

Weather

Monday

Sunrise at 6:03  
Sunset at 5:37

Forecast for Nepal (Monday)		Sunday's Weather Record		
		Max.	Min.	Rain
		temp. (C)	temp. (C)	(mm)
Partly cloudy in the hilly regions, mainly fair in the rest of the country. Isolated brief rain is possible at one or two places of the hilly regions.	Stations			
	Dipayal	31.6	-	-
	Dadeldhura	22.0	11.5	0.0
	Dhangadi	32.5	19.0	0.0
	Birendranagar	29.5	14.6	0.0
	Nepalgunj	33.0	19.0	0.0
	Jumla	22.5	9.9	0.0
	Dang	29.8	16.0	0.0
	Pokhara	28.3	17.8	0.0
	Bhairahawa	32.1	20.3	0.0
	Simara	32.5	18.5	0.0
	Kathmandu	28.0	14.6	0.0
	Okhaldhunga	24.7	13.4	0.0
	Taplejung	23.3	14.8	0.0
	Dhankuta	26.4	15.7	0.0
	Biratnagar	32.4	21.2	0.0
Expected Temp.: °C Rain Probability: %				

NEPAL RASTRA BANK FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT			
EXCHANGE RATES			
October 14, 2019			
CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
Indian Rupee	100	Rs. 160.00	Rs. 160.15
Open Market Exchange Rates			
For the purpose of Nepal Rastra Bank			
CURRENCY	UNIT	BUYING	SELLING
U.S. Dollar	1	Rs. 113.34	Rs. 113.94
Euro	1	Rs. 125.15	Rs. 125.81
Pound Sterling	1	Rs. 143.36	Rs. 144.12
Swiss Franc	1	Rs. 113.71	Rs. 114.31
Australian Dollar	1	Rs. 76.95	Rs. 77.35
Canadian Dollar	1	Rs. 85.88	Rs. 86.33
Singapore Dollar	1	Rs. 82.56	Rs. 83.00
Japanese Yen	10	Rs. 10.45	Rs. 10.51
Chinese Yuan	1	Rs. 15.99	Rs. 16.08
Saudi Arab Riyal	1	Rs. 30.22	Rs. 30.38
Qatari Riyal	1	Rs. 31.13	Rs. 31.29
Thai Bhat	1	Rs. 3.72	Rs. 3.74
United Arab Emirat Theram	1	Rs. 30.86	Rs. 31.02
Malaysian Ringit	1	Rs. 27.08	Rs. 27.22
South Korean Won	100	Rs. 9.58	Rs. 9.63
Swedish Kronar	1	Rs. 11.56	Rs. 11.62
Danish Kronar	1	Rs. 16.75	Rs. 16.84
Hong Kong Dollar	1	Rs. 14.45	Rs. 14.53
Kuwaiti Dinar	1	Rs. 373.14	Rs. 375.11
Bahraini Dinar	1	Rs. 300.56	Rs. 302.15
Note: Under the present system the open market exchange rates quoted by different banks may differ.			

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Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and NC President Sher Bahadur Deuba at NC's tea reception: P. 6

# THE RISING NEPAL

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चाडपर्व हाम्रो साँस्कृतिक धरोहरहरू हुन्  
थिनीहरूको संरक्षण गरौं ।  
चाडपर्वको नाममा फजुल खर्च नगरी  
उत्पादनमूलक कार्यमा लाग्नी गरौं ।  
नेपाल सरकार  
सञ्चार तथा सूचना प्रविधि मन्त्रालय  
सूचना तथा प्रसारण विभाग

## Accord on cross-border connectivity

### Chinese Prez Xi returns

By A Staff Reporter  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping returned to Beijing on Sunday after concluding his two-day state visit to Nepal.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari, with Prime Minister Oli and other dignitaries, bid farewell to the Chinese President at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

A large number of people appeared on the road to bid farewell to the high level Chinese guest.

President Xi held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli in the morning and deliberated on bilateral relationship and regional and international issues of common concern. They observed the signing of various 20 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), agreements and letter of exchanges and a 20-point joint statement was issued afterwards.

Chairman of Nepal Communist Party (NCP) and former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda called on the visiting Chinese President at Soaltee Hotel where they hold about half an hour-long meeting.

Prachanda said that Nepal felt proud for having a neighbour like China and expressed commitment to exchange experiences and take the bilateral relations to the newer heights.

Prachanda said that the bilateral relationship between Nepal and China witnessed an advent of new era following the signing of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He maintained that both the countries must set deadline to select and execute projects so that the people of both nations could benefit by them.

In response, President Xi stressed on developing common programme in order to exchange experiences of both the parties. He reiterated his commitment to support Nepal in achieving the national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'.

President Xi emphasised on economic development and said, "A political party and government can win the hearts of people only through the economic development in the country." He also told Prachanda that for a communist party, its

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President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Vice President Nanda Bahadur Pun and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli seeing off Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. The Chinese President returned home after completing the two-day visit to Nepal on Sunday. (Photo: Shekhar Chaulagain/TRN)

## Cooperation to cover rail, tunnel and energy exchange

By Modnath Dhakal  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

Nepal and China have agreed to intensify cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to enhance connectivity by developing ports, roads, railways, aviation and communication.

They have agreed to expedite the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation under the BRI to enhance connectivity within the framework of trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network.

A joint statement issued by the two neighbours on Sunday at the conclusion of the two-day state visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Nepal maintains that the implementation of connectivity infrastructure will contribute to Nepal's aim to graduate from the status of the Least Developed Country (LDC) at an early date and become a middle income country by 2030.

Nepal plans to graduate to a developing nation from its current LDC status by 2022.

President Xi and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli observed the agreements signing on Sunday

morning following their bilateral meeting.

The visit of the Chinese Head of the State after a gap of 23 years brought joy to the government and people of Nepal as the two nations agreed to conduct the feasibility

Cross-border connectivity The northern neighbour has agreed to open the Lizhi-Nechung port across the Korala border at the earliest date and build necessary infrastructure on Nepal's side of the border.



Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, Chinese President Xi Jinping and other dignitaries participating in the bilateral meeting held in the capital on Sunday. (Photo: Bikash Dware/TRN)

study of the Keyrung-Kathmandu Railway project which will be the first cross-border railway in the north. China has also assured that it would extend support to the proposed Kathmandu-Pokhara-Lumbini railway project.

Nepal and China had signed an MoU in June 2018 on Cooperation in Railway Project.

Currently Zhangmu/Khasa port across Tatopani is operating freight functions while Jilong Keyrung port on the other side of Rasuwagadhi will come into operation shortly.

China has supported Nepal in the construction of Larcha Dry Port at Tatopani border and is constructing Timure Dry Port

at Rasuwagadhi border point which has witnessed the increased trade activities following the devastation of the former in the 2015 earthquake.

Tunnel along the Keyrung-Kathmandu road is also included in the joint statement. Currently, China and Nepal have agreed to conduct feasibility study of the project.

In an effort to facilitate cross-border movement of goods and people the northern neighbour is also helping Nepal in developing the Syaphrubensi-Rasuwagadhi road as a two-lane highway.

In another effort to create long-term connectivity infrastructure, China has agreed to upgrade and reconstruct the Araniko Highway connecting Kathmandu to Tatopani-Khasa.

Similarly, China will be supporting Nepal in developing three north-south corridors – Koshi, Gandaki and Karnali Economic Corridors. "It will create jobs and improve livelihood of locals and stimulate economic growth and development," read the joint statement.

The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in various fields of economy, including trade,

tourism, investment, capacity of production and improving people's livelihood so as to promote mutual development.

President Xi's visit has also facilitated Nepal to have greater direct air services to China as the two countries have welcomed the consensus between their civil aviation authorities on expanding the air rights arrangement to operate more direct air services.

Nepal will also get assistance for training its technical human resources in railway, road and tunnel engineering, inland waterways and shipping.

Expanding export to China China has assured that it would take positive measures to expand Nepal's export to China.

It has agreed to consider providing technical support for the establishment of multifunctional laboratory in Nepal and extend cooperation to make Tatopani Frontier Inspection Station at Larcha fully functional.

At the same time, Nepal will facilitate the Chinese banks to open their branches and other financial services in Nepal to facilitate trade and investment between the two countries. Nepali

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### Visit successful, say President Bhandari, PM Oli

By A Staff Reporter  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

President Bidya Devi Bhandari has said that the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping had ushered in the historical and strong relations between Nepal and China to a new era. In her tweet on Sunday, she also expressed gratitude to her Chinese counterpart for his goodwill and support to Nepal and its people.

Likewise, Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has termed the visit 'a huge success'. "The two-day visit of the Chinese president has concluded with a grand success and the relations between the two countries have achieved new height and dynamism," he said in a tweet on Sunday.

In another tweet, he expressed gratitude for Xi's goodwill and good wishes. He also thanked Nepali people for their support to make the visit a success in an unprecedented way.



Chinese President Xi Jinping in a carcade in Kathmandu before his departure to China on Sunday. (Photo: Rajendra / TRN)

## President Xi's visit has boosted Nepal-China relations

By A Staff Reporter  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

Political leaders as well as the leaders of the business community have termed the two-day State visit of the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping to Nepal as successful. Both the leaders of the ruling and the main opposition parties have hailed the visit of the Chinese leader.

They said that it was a historic opportunity for Nepal to welcome the Chinese President in an interval of 23 years.

Earlier, the then Chinese President Jiang Zemin had visited Nepal in 1996.

Chairman of the ruling Nepal Communist Party Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, who had a separate meeting with President Xi for about half an hour on Sunday, said that the talks and discussions held between Nepal and China during Xi's visit were highly positive.

"What we have done has been okay," Prachanda said.

However, he did not make any further comment. "Everything has been reported in the media, and you can also contact party spokesperson for additional views," he said.

During his meeting with the Chinese President, NCP chair Prachanda said that with the



Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi exchanging the memorandum of understandings at the signing ceremony in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli in Kathmandu on Sunday. (Photo: RSS)

signing of BRI, Nepal-China relations had entered a new phase.

Spokesperson of the Nepal Communist Party Narayankaji Shrestha said that the visit of the Chinese President that was possible after a long interval became highly successful.

"This visit has become a base for taking Nepal-China relations to a newer height," the former foreign affairs minister said, adding that with the visit, friendship and intimacy between the two countries have further deepened.

The visit has ensured Chinese support to push Nepal's economic revolution further ahead, he said. See page 6



Daniil Medvedev won his fourth title of a spectacular year with a thumping 6-4, 6-1 victory over Alexander Zverev in the Shanghai Masters final on Sunday. Victory for the 23-year-old Russian, contesting a sixth final in a row, was more evidence that he is the prime contender to join the “Big Three” of Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. (AFP)



**Nepal, Bhutan settle for draw**  
By A Staff Reporter  
Kathmandu, Oct. 13

Nepal and Bhutan played 1-1 draw in their last group match of the SAFF U15 Women Championship at Chalimithang Stadium, Thimpu on Sunday.

Nepal opened the account in the second half from the goal of Nikita Thokar in the 50th minute but host Bhutan restored the parity in the 67th minute from the goal of Deki Ihazom. Nepal played a goalless draw in the first half. Nepal strikers failed to tap in the few opportunities they got.

Both Nepal and Bhutan have already crashed out of the tournament after suffering two defeats in a row. Nepal went down to India by 1-4 and lost to Bangladesh by 1-2 while host Bhutan suffered 2-0 loss against Bangladesh and 10-1 defeat against India.

India and Bangladesh entered the final after settling at the top two position of the table. Both India and Bangladesh collected seven points with two win and one draw. But India topped the table being superior in goal difference.

Nepal changed three players from the first XI against Bhutan. Coach Rakesh Shrestha rested Sushma Ghartimagar, Nikita Thokar and Mandira Rai and gave opportunity to the new faces Manjukumari Khadka, Mamata Pun and Sunkala Rai.

# Italy clinch place at Euro 2020 as Spain made to wait

AFP  
Rome, Oct. 13

Italy became the second team to qualify for Euro 2020 after a 2-0 win over Greece on Saturday, while three-time champions Spain edged closer to the finals despite conceding a stoppage-time equaliser away to Norway.

Chelsea midfielder Jorginho dispatched a second-half penalty as Italy, wearing green kits for just the second time in history, registered a seventh straight win in Group J.

The Azzurri, who failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, added a second in Rome on 78 minutes through a deflected strike from Juventus forward Federico Bernardeschi.

Roberto Mancini's side joined Belgium in the draw for next year's finals, where Italy will play their first two group games at the Stadio Olimpico.

“We managed to create a team in a short period of time. It wasn't easy but you have to thank the players, who have quickly developed an understanding between themselves,” said Mancini, who took over as Italy coach 18 months ago.

“It's a team with character that fights and plays with the ball but one that must also improve. Now we have a year to try and get better.

“We have a lot of work but we're not very far from the best European teams. I'm happy and proud to have helped the national team come through a tough patch.”

Spain dropped their first points in Group F as Joshua King converted a 94th-minute spot-kick to rescue a 1-1 draw for Norway following a foul by



The Italian soccer team celebrates after the end of the Euro 2020 group J qualifying soccer match against Greece in Rome, Italy, Saturday. (Photo: AP)

goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga on Omar Elabdellaoui.

Sergio Ramos broke the Spanish international appearances record as he won his 168th cap in Oslo to overtake Iker Casillas.

The visitors led when Saul Niguez slammed home from 20 yards moments after half-time but Spain were denied a seventh win in a row as King's equaliser kept Norway in the running.

“It's a real pain to lose points in the final seconds. It's complicated to play against a team who knew that if they lost they were pretty much out,” said Spain captain Ramos.

Norway last qualified for a major tournament at the 2000 European Championship and are fourth in the group, four points adrift of neighbours

Sweden with three games to play.

Sebastian Larsson netted two spot-kicks as Sweden cruised to a 4-0 rout of Malta to reclaim second place behind Spain. Marcus Danielson broke the deadlock on 11 minutes in Ta' Qali and home skipper Andrei Agius also scored an own goal.

Romania remain a point behind Sweden following a 3-0 win in the Faroe Islands secured by second-half goals from George Puscas, Ionut Mitrita and Claudiu Keseru.

**Schmeichel denies Switzerland**  
Kasper Schmeichel produced a series of excellent saves as Denmark defeated Switzerland 1-0 to climb level with the Republic of Ireland in Group D.

Leicester City goalkeeper

Schmeichel pulled off superb stops to deny Granit Xhaka, Admir Mehmedi and Ricardo Rodriguez before Yussuf Poulsen grabbed an 84th-minute winner for Denmark in Copenhagen.

The Danes moved up to 12 points alongside group leaders Ireland, who drew 0-0 away to Georgia, while Switzerland are four points off the pace but with a game in hand.

“We battled for the whole game, there was a tremendous atmosphere. I think that was one of my best performances for Denmark,” said Schmeichel.

Mick McCarthy's Ireland couldn't establish any momentum earlier in the day in Tbilisi and were left frustrated by wayward finishing from their few opportunities to break the deadlock.

# India record 11<sup>th</sup>-straight Test series win

AFP  
Pune, Oct. 13

Umesh Yadav led an inspired bowling display as India thrashed South Africa by an innings and 137 runs in the second Test to clinch a record 11th-straight series triumph at home on Sunday.

The tourists were dismissed for 189 after following-on in the final session of day four in Pune, as India took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Vernon Philander, who made 37, and Keshav Maharaj, who scored 22, put up a brief resistance during their 56-run eighth-wicket stand, but Yadav broke through with the wicket of Philander.

He took his third wicket after sending back Kagiso Rabada for four and spinner Ravindra Jadeja trapped Maharaj lbw to wrap up the game as India went past Australia's 10-series wins on home turf. Jadeja returned figures of 3-52.

The win also consolidated India's number-one position in the world Test championship with 200 points. Skipper Virat Kohli set up the win with his unbeaten 254 -- a record seventh double-century for the star batsman -- in India's 601 for five declared.

Ravichandran Ashwin struck twice in the morning



India's cricket team wicket keeper Wriddhiman Saha takes a catch of South Africa's Faf du Plessis during fourth day of second cricket test match in Pune, India, Sunday. (Photo: AP)

session after the tourists started their second innings trailing by 326.

Ashwin had du Plessis -- who promoted himself to number four in the batting order -- caught behind for five with wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha holding on to a juggling catch.

The off-spinner soon got opening batsman Dean Elgar caught for 48 as South Africa slipped further. Paceman Ishant Sharma struck with his second ball of the day to trap Aiden Markram lbw for nought.

Markram had a long

discussion with Elgar over whether to review the on-field call but walked, only for the replays to suggest the ball would have gone over the stumps. The Proteas were dismissed for 275 at the end of day three in response to India's 601-5 declared, 127 short of the follow-on.

South Africa put up some resistance in their first innings with Maharaj, who made 72, and Philander, 44 not out, putting on 109 runs for the ninth wicket to frustrate the Indian bowlers.

Ashwin broke the stand with Maharaj's wicket and

then got last man Rabada to return figures of 4-69.

The match will also be remembered for his Kohli's marathon knock as he surpassed Don Bradman's tally of 6,996 runs.

Kohli, who now has 7,054 runs from 81 Tests, put together crucial partnerships including a 225-run fifth-wicket stand with Jadeja, who made 91, to extend India's dominance. Opener Mayank Agarwal also contributed with a century.

The two teams now head to Ranchi for the final match starting October 19.

# Langer unsure if Smith wants Australia captaincy back

AFP  
Melbourne, Oct. 13

Steve Smith's ban on leading Australia ends in March but the star batsman may not want the Test captaincy back, coach Justin Langer says.

Smith skippered the team until he was suspended for 12 months over a brazen attempt to alter the ball with sandpaper under his watch in Cape Town last year. Part of his punishment included a further year-long exile from any leadership role.

Calls have grown for Smith to take over from Tim Paine when the ban is lifted since his incredible batting performances helped Australia retain the Ashes against England.

But Langer said it was not a simple decision, with Smith admitting his exploits -- 774 runs in just seven innings -- left him mentally and physically shattered. “I’ve built a good relationship with Steve over the last 18 months, and it (the captaincy) is going to come down to honest conversations,” the coach told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Saturday.

“You can see how exhausted he was from the effort he put into his batting (during the Ashes), and whether he wants the burden of captaincy as well is something we’ll have to work out over time. “I’ll be one of the selectors, and I think we’ll just work out what’s best.”

Paine, who will be 35 in December, will almost certainly retain the role for the home summer Test series against Pakistan and New Zealand, despite occasional criticism of his batting and captaincy during the Ashes.

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